



Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

Board of County Commissioners
Approved & Adopted
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Program Open Space Law, as most recently amended, requires the 23 counties and Baltimore City to submit local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plans every six years. The local plans provide a basis for a statewide plan.

The Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation (LPP&R) Plan is supplemental to the 2004 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and is based upon the County's prior Land Preservation and Open Space Plans. The LPP&R Plan is based upon the goals and actions set forth in the 2004 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on January 11, 2005.

There are three elements of the Plan.

1. Recreation, Parks, and Open Space
2. Agricultural Land Preservation
3. Natural Resource Conservation

1. Recreation, Parks, and Open Space

During the development of this plan, the supply of publicly-owned recreation sites was inventoried. The LPP&R Plan includes an analysis of the existing supply, present and future demand for recreation activities, and a needs analysis for 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. The Plan presents an inventory of County and municipal recreation sites and compares the current supply to the goal of providing 30 acres of recreation land per 1,000 persons. As of 2005, the County and the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach were providing 1,889 acres of local recreation and natural resource lands. The 2005 goal was to provide 2,556 acres. Thus, there is a current deficit of 667 acres of recreation and natural resource lands. The 2020 goal is to provide 2,880 acres. In order to do so, the County and the municipalities will need to acquire 991 acres.

The needs analysis shows that there are deficits of recreation facilities for baseball/softball, field sports, basketball, tennis, pools, picnic shelters, playgrounds, skateparks, equestrian trails, kayak & canoeing launch sites, and swimming at beaches/rivers. The Plan sets forth four broad objectives:

- Develop a network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based on the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the County.
- Provide public access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Ensure that a wide selection of public recreational facilities and programs are provided to meet the interests and needs of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
- Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.

2. Agricultural Preservation

Calvert farming is in the middle of a cultural and financial crisis, as it moves away from tobacco to other crops. Approximately 24% of the county's land is assessed as farmland. The LPP&R

Plan reviews the current state of land preservation tools. The County has set a goal to preserve 40,000 acres of prime farm and forestland. Over 23,000 acres are permanently preserved. At the current rate of preservation, the County could reach its goal by 2020.

The LPP&R Plan sets forth three strategies for agricultural land preservation:

- Implement zoning changes to allow farmers to have additional uses for agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage tourism uses.
- Continue to work with the Economic Development Department and the Tri-County Agriculture Commission to develop and implement marketing programs.
- Continue to fund County Purchase of Development Rights and urge the state to do the same.

3. Natural Resource Land Conservation

Calvert County's unique geography provides an abundance of diverse natural resources: the cliffs of Calvert, numerous creeks leading into the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay, and large areas of undeveloped forest. The LPP&R Plan provides an overview of current goals, policies, and implementation strategies at the State and County levels. Tools for protecting natural resources are described, ranging from land preservation to zoning.

The LPP&R Plan sets forth six strategies for natural resource conservation:

- Continue to support and promote the County's land use plan and policies outlined in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan.
- Adopt a Greenways Map and use it to target areas that need to be protected. Include Forest Interior Dwelling (FID) bird habitat. Use the map to identify greenways during the subdivision process. Give priority to including greenways within designated open space.
- Increase public awareness of the need for habitat protection and the maintenance of greenways. Techniques should include developing informational brochures, making public presentations and developing programs for Channel 6 (public access cable television).
- Continue to hold regional meetings to explain land preservation options that are available to property owners.
- Promote eco-tourism by allowing natural resource related recreational businesses in the Resource Preservation District, consistent with resource and habitat protection.
- Continue the strong County funding support for land preservation at the local level and encourage the continuation of funding programs at the State level (Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, Rural Legacy and Program Open Space).

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CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the purpose and presents the context of the Calvert County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPP&R Plan).

A. Purposes of the Plan

The Program Open Space Law, as most recently amended, requires the 23 counties and Baltimore City to submit local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plans every six years, starting July 1, 2005. The local plans provide a basis for a statewide plan. The Program Open Space law was enacted in 1969. This Calvert County LPP&R Plan is based upon prior Calvert County Land Preservation and Recreation Plans, most recently prepared in 1994 and 2000. This Plan is supplemental to the 2004 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan. The 2005 LPP&R Plan for Calvert County was developed following the guidelines published in October 2003 by the Maryland Departments of Planning and Natural Resources.

There are three elements of the Plan.

1. Recreation and parks
2. Agricultural land preservation
3. Natural resources conservation

The purposes of the Plan include the following:

- Review goals and objectives of State and local programs for three principal elements: parks and recreation, agriculture, and natural resources;
- Identify where these goals and objectives are essentially the same, where they are complementary or mutually supportive, and where they are simply different;
- Evaluate the ability of implementation programs and funding sources for each element to achieve related goals and objectives;
- Identify desirable improvements to policies, plans, and funding strategies, to better achieve goals and improve return on public investment;
- Recommend to State and local legislatures, governing bodies and agencies changes needed to overcome shortcomings, achieve goals, and ultimately ensure good return on public investment;
- Identify the needs and priorities of current and future State and local population for outdoor recreation;
- Achieve legislative goals of State and local land preservation programs; and
- Ensure that public investment in local preservation and recreation supports and is supported by local comprehensive plans, associated implementation programs, State Planning Policy, and State and local programs that influence land use and development.

Specific objectives of the plan include the following:

- ❖ Identify the needs and priorities of current and future State and local populations for outdoor recreation;
- ❖ Achieve legislative goals of State and local land preservation programs;
- ❖ Ensure that public investment in land preservation and recreation supports and is supported by local programs that influence land use and development;

- ❖ Identify desirable improvements to policies, plans, and funding strategies, to better achieve goals and improve return on public investment; and
- ❖ Make recommendations to agencies, State and local legislatures, and administrators.

B. Local Agency Preparation of the Plan

The Calvert County government is responsible for the preparation of the LPP&R Plan. The Plan was developed by the County's Open Space Committee, composed of staff from the Parks and Recreation Division, the Natural Resources Division, the Finance and Budget Department, Economic Development Department, and the Planning and Zoning Department. The Planning and Zoning Department was responsible for coordinating the Plan's development. The Parks and Recreation Division and the Planning and Zoning Department worked jointly in preparing Chapter III. Chapters IV and V were prepared by the Planning and Zoning Department. Citizens and the municipalities of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach participated in the development of the Plan, as described in Chapter III. The County's Program Open Space liaison with the State is the Capital Projects Coordinator of the Finance and Budget Department.

C. The Plan's Relationship to the Comprehensive Planning Process

The LPP&R Plan is based upon the goals and actions set forth in the 2004 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on January 11, 2005. The Comprehensive Plan is the official policy document for the County. The Board of County Commissioners and the Planning Commission use the Comprehensive Plan as a guide when evaluating proposed projects or changes to the Zoning Ordinance. The LPP&R Plan, once approved by the Planning Commission and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, is a supplemental plan to the Comprehensive Plan, similar to the County Transportation Plan and master plans for the town centers.

D. Definitions Used in the Plan

Definitions used in this plan are from the Maryland Department of Planning. Definitions, terms, programs and acronyms may be found in the Appendix. Terms include general terms and land classification terms.

CHAPTER II – FRAMEWORK FOR THE LOCAL PLAN

A. COUNTY PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS¹

Calvert County is located 30 miles southeast of Washington, D.C. in Southern Maryland (refer to Figure II-1). Calvert County is a peninsula bounded on the south and east by the Chesapeake Bay and on the west by the Patuxent River. A bridge at the southern-most point connects Solomons Island in Calvert County with St. Mary's County, and a bridge at Hallowing Point connects Calvert County with Charles County. The county contains approximately 220 square miles (about 140,000 acres) and is 35 miles long north to south, and varies in width between 5 and 9 miles. There are two incorporated towns, both located in the northeast corner of the county, along the Chesapeake Bay. Chesapeake Beach was incorporated in 1886, and North Beach was incorporated in 1910. The county seat is Prince Frederick, located in the middle of the county. There are seven unincorporated Town Centers: Dunkirk, Owings, Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, St. Leonard, Lusby, and Solomons.

Figure II-1: Location of Calvert County



The topography of Calvert County is variable and rugged. An upland plain runs from the northwest to the southwest. On the Chesapeake Bay side, the upland ends in high cliffs of clay, gravel and sand that extend from the shoreline to heights of 125 to 135 feet. On the west, the upland areas slope toward the Patuxent River where rich farmland is found. The water generally drains from the central elevation towards the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River on either side of the county.

Calvert County is within the Lower Western Shore Watershed and the Patuxent Watershed. The two watersheds are separated along the central elevation in the county with the Lower Western

¹ County profile information in Sections A and B based upon information in the Calvert County Hazard Mitigation Plan, 2004, prepared by Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.

Shore Watershed on the eastern most side of the county draining towards the Chesapeake Bay, and the Patuxent Watershed encompassing the western two-thirds of the county and draining towards the Patuxent River.

B. CURRENT AND PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

As of the 2000 Census, Calvert County's population was 74,563 people, compared to Maryland's population was 5,296,486. The population density was 346 people per mile. Calvert County is the smallest county, in geographic area, in the state. Calvert County was the second fastest growing county in the State of Maryland between 1980 and 1990, and the fastest growing county in the State between 1990 and 2000. The Calvert County Planning & Zoning Department estimates the population to be 85,200 as of January 2005. From 1990 to 2000, Maryland's population grew 10.8 percent, a gain of 515,733 persons. Calvert County's population increased 45.1 percent during the same time period. The Town of Chesapeake Beach increased 23.9 percent, and the Town of North Beach increased 38.5 percent. Refer to Figure II-2

Figure II-2 Population

	1990 Census	2000 Census	Percent Change
State of Maryland	4,780,742	5,296,486	10.8
Calvert County	51,372	74,563	45.1
Town of Chesapeake Beach	2,419	3,189	23.9
Town of North Beach	1,157	1,880	38.5

In 2000, the county population was spread out with 29.6 percent under the age of 18, 6.4 percent from 18 to 24, 31.7 percent from 25 to 44, 23.4 percent from 45 to 64, and 8.9 percent who are 65 years of age or older. The median age of the population in Calvert County was 36 years.

The county population is projected to be 91,000 in 2010 and 96,000 in 2020 (refer to Figure II-3). The County has chosen to use its population projections for the development of the LPP&R Plan instead of the Maryland Department of Planning's projections. During 2004, County staff worked with Tri-County Council in detailed analysis of potential future growth, based upon residential subdivisions that had been recorded but not developed, or were in the review process, and an estimation of potential development based upon zoning.

Figure II-3 Population Projections

Year	2005	2010	2015	2020
County's Population Estimate/ Projection	85,200	91,000	94,000	96,000
Maryland Department of Planning's Population Projection	88,750	96,950	99,450	101,950

Sources: Calvert County Planning & Zoning Department
Maryland Department of Planning, September 2005

The County's projected population has decreased over the past six years due to a concerted effort by the County Commissioners to reduce the County's population at build-out. Instead of converting the county's prime forests and farms into building sites, these resources will be the basis for a thriving farming, forestry, recreation and retirement based economy. During the development of the 1997 Comprehensive Plan, County planners projected the number of dwelling units at the build-out of the county. Under the 1995 zoning, the county had a theoretical build-out capacity of approximately 50,000 dwelling units. At the projected rate of growth, build-out, which assumed a modest decline over the current rates, would be reached in 2030. In 1999, after conducting a thorough analysis of the costs and benefits of reducing build-out and developing options for public review and comment, the County adopted a program to reduce build-out to 37,000 households. The reduction program included a combination of Zoning Ordinance changes with new funding and new incentives for voluntary land preservation. The residential build-out issue was revisited in 2003 and further reductions were made to meet the build-out goals established in 1999.

C. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FRAMEWORK

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan is the official policy document for the County. The overarching goal of the Comprehensive Plan is to "maintain and/or improve the overall quality of life for all citizens of Calvert County by:

- a. promoting sustainable development,
- b. encouraging a stable and enduring economic base,
- c. providing for safety, health, and education, and
- d. preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County.

The Comprehensive Plan is comprised of four chapters: Land, People, Economy and Government. The Land, People, and Government chapters include sections focused on specific topics. Agricultural preservation is discussed in the Land Use and Growth Management section of the Land Chapter. Natural resources conservation is discussed in the Natural Resources and Sensitive Areas section of the Land Chapter. Recreation has its own section in the People Chapter. Each section includes objectives, sustainability issues, and actions.

The Comprehensive Plan states that areas like Calvert County that lie at the outer edges of metropolitan areas should be maintained as natural resource protection areas, farming regions, and vacation/recreation/retirements areas. This approach would help to:

- Conserve natural resources.
- Maintain a healthy environment.
- Promote the health and well-being of residents throughout the region.
- Reduce expenditures for public infrastructure.
- Maintain a regional source of agricultural and forest products.

In order to implement this strategy, the County's land use plan is to:

- Manage the amount and rate of residential growth.
- Preserve the rural character of the County, its prime farmland, contiguous forests, historic resources, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Develop town centers as attractive, pleasant, and convenient places to live, work, and shop.

- Direct commercial and industrial uses to appropriate locations and provide necessary infrastructure.
- Direct residential growth to appropriate locations and ensure a wide range of housing opportunities for all incomes and ages.
- Maintain and enhance the quality of residential communities.

CHAPTER III – RECREATION, PARKS, AND OPEN SPACE

INTRODUCTION

A. COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

This section describes the ways in which Calvert County’s land preservation and recreation goals and procedures support the goals of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and the State goals for Recreation, Parks, and Open Space.

1. Goals

a. State Goals for Recreation, Parks and Open Space

The State of Maryland has six primary goals for recreation, parks, and open space.

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens, and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being.
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties, and the State more desirable places to live, work and visit.
- Use State investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile, and help protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities.
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level.

b. 2004 Comprehensive Plan for Calvert County

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan for Calvert County’s goal is to “maintain and/or improve the overall quality of life for all citizens of Calvert County by:

- a. promoting sustainable development,
- b. encouraging a stable and enduring economic base,
- c. providing for safety, health, and education, and
- d. preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County.

The Comprehensive Plan goal is expressed in a series of 10 visions. The vision that directly relates to recreation is “Our children are well prepared for the future. We are healthy in body, mind, and spirit.” The benchmark for the healthy aspect of this vision is, “The County provides 30 acres of public access open space per 1,000 residents.”

The Land Use & Growth Management Section in the Comprehensive Plan incorporates the seven visions from the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992.

1. Development is concentrated in suitable areas.
2. Sensitive areas are protected.
3. In rural areas, growth is directed to existing population centers and resource areas are protected.
4. Stewardship of the Chesapeake Bay and the land is a universal ethic.
5. Conservation of resources, including a reduction in resource consumption, is practiced.
6. To ensure the achievement of 1 through 5 above, economic growth is encouraged and regulatory mechanisms are streamlined.
7. Funding mechanisms are addressed to achieve these visions.

The Maryland General Assembly added an eighth vision: “Adequate public facilities and infrastructure under the control of the county or municipal corporation are available or planned in areas where growth is to occur.”

In the Recreation Section, the Comprehensive Plan sets forth four broad objectives:

- Develop a network of recreational sites and facilities, including hiker/biker and horseback riding trails, based on the unique natural, cultural and historical features of the County.
- Provide public access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.
- Ensure that a wide selection of public recreational facilities and programs are provided to meet the interests and needs of all ages, incomes, and abilities.
- Provide safe access to parks and recreational facilities including, where feasible, pedestrian and bicycle access.

The Comprehensive Plan contains actions that implement the objectives. There are five actions in the Recreation section (Actions II-56 through II-60:

II-56. Update the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan as required by State law.

II-57. Continue the established standard of providing 30 acres of recreational open space per 1000 population.

a. Give priority to preserving and acquiring key Countywide natural, cultural, and historic sites while they are still available. Land banking is highly encouraged for this purpose.

Standard: Sites should provide access to the water, provide part of a greenway trail system and/or provide access to a unique natural, historic, or cultural feature and be capable of connecting with a town center and/or existing or proposed park site by way of an existing or potential trail system. Priority should be given to sites specifically identified in the Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. Additional and/or substitute

projects should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Board of County Commissioners.

b. Develop a full range of recreational sites and facilities serving town centers (especially after-school programs). Emphasize family-oriented activities and increase programs and activities for all ages.

Standard: Each town center should be capable of serving as a major focal point and recreation center for residents of the town and their surrounding areas. Major town centers (Prince Frederick, North Beach, Chesapeake Beach, and Solomons) should serve residents within their districts, and in some cases, the entire County. Each town center should have:

- A town park or "village green"
- An in-town trail and bikeway system that connects to extended greenways
- An outdoor public facility designed primarily for active team sports
- An indoor community center capable of providing a range of activities for all age groups.

In addition, the County needs a total of three public outdoor swimming pools in or near our major town centers (to serve the northern, middle, and southern parts of the County) and one public indoor swimming pool in or near Prince Frederick. The Kings Landing pool will need to be replaced. The water park in Chesapeake Beach, while a very popular recreational amenity, should not count as one of the required swimming pools.

c. Connect Countywide parks to each other and to town centers by way of public greenways. Ensure that greenways do not go through private property without the express permission of the property owner.

Standard: Each town center should be connected to at least one key natural area/historic park by a trail system.

II-58. Continue to require onsite neighborhood recreational facilities in townhouse and multifamily developments and in single-family detached neighborhoods of 50 or more houses. Require recreation fees collected through the excise tax for all new houses, and use fees to provide recreational sites and facilities at convenient locations to those who paid the fees.

II-59. Expand recreational opportunities by establishing an intergovernmental review procedure for the design or renovation of all new public buildings including schools, colleges, and community centers to help promote effective and efficient multiple-use of these facilities.

II-60. Develop and maintain interjurisdictional partnerships to promote recreational networks.

Refer to Figure III-1 Calvert County's Public Recreation Sites Map for the locations of the facilities.

Figure III-1 Recreation Sites 2006



c. Relationship between State and County Goals

The County's goals are aligned with the State's goals. Both governments focus on making a variety of recreational opportunities available for all citizens and recognize that recreational sites are integral components of vibrant places to live, work and play. The State and County strive to provide recreation facilities that are conveniently located.

2. **Programs.** This section describes the programs and procedures Calvert County uses to acquire, develop and operate parks, recreational facilities, and open space, including the funding sources used to support these activities.

Planning

The Planning & Zoning Department coordinates the development of the Comprehensive Plan, administers the Zoning Ordinance and Subdivision Regulations, and provides advice to the County Commissioners concerning growth and development in Calvert County. The Department provides staff support to the Planning Commission and other boards and commissions. Established in accordance with state law, Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Planning Commission serves as a citizen review board on County planning decisions. The seven-member commission, appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, is both an advisory and a decision-making body. The Planning Commission creates, approves and amends the Comprehensive Plan. It also prepares master plans and other plans and reports necessary to guide development or to educate citizens. The Planning & Zoning Department is the lead agency in the development of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPP&R Plan). Other County departments and divisions directly involved with the development of the LPP&R Plan include the Parks & Recreation Division (within the Department of General Services), Division of Natural Resources (within the Department of General Services), Economic Development Department, and Finance & Budget Department.

Two divisions in the County's General Services Department are responsible for active and passive recreation, the Parks and Recreation Division and the Natural Resources Division. The Parks and Recreation Division provides opportunities for healthful, enjoyable, lifetime leisure activities to our entire community through a comprehensive program of recreational activities in the community centers, the public schools and County parks. The Division is also responsible for the management, maintenance and development of the County's active recreation parks. The Parks and Recreation Division employs 61.6 full-time equivalent staff (FY 2006). The Natural Resources Division preserves, manages, and operates natural resource areas to provide compatible outdoor recreation and educational opportunities for the public. The Division on Natural Resources manages the following areas/sites: Flag Ponds Nature Park, King's Landing Park, Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary, Hughes Memorial Tree Farm, and Hutchins' Fishing Pond. The Natural Resources Division employs 9.7 full-time equivalent staff (FY 2006).

The Parks and Recreation Board is a 9-member board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners "to aid and advise the Division of Parks and Recreation in the provision on recreational facilities and programs and the establishment of policy for the operation of the same." (Calvert County Board of Parks and Recreation Guidelines, 4/7/1989)

The Office on Aging, located within the Community Resources Department, provides services to the seniors of Calvert County as required by the Older Americans Act. Services offered include recreational, educational, leisure, and nutritional activities as well as volunteer opportunities for senior citizens. Senior centers are located in the north, middle, and southern areas of the county. The Commission on Aging advises the Office on Aging on how to better meet the needs of the county's senior citizens. Appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, this 16-member Commission actively promotes the development of senior services and advocates for senior needs.

Land Acquisition

Each year, the Department prepares the Program Open Space Annual Program. Projects listed in the Annual Program are either taken directly from the County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan or identified as potential acquisition or development projects by the Board of County Commissioners. The projects have not necessarily obtained final approval from the Board. Projects specifically requested by the municipalities, Chesapeake Beach and North Beach, are also listed. For projects other than those already listed in the Calvert County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan or requested by a municipality, the selection process begins when any individual or organization proposes a project for consideration. The proposal is forwarded to an in-house Open Space Committee composed of the Parks and Recreation Division Chief, the Natural Resources Division Chief, the Capital Projects Coordinator, the Tourism Program Specialist, and the Principal Project Planner. The Open Space Committee makes preliminary findings of fact and determines whether or not the project is consistent with the criteria listed in the Calvert County Land Preservation and Recreation Plan. The committee presents its findings to the Board of County Commissioners for action. Listing a project in the Annual Program is a first step towards implementing a project and is a requirement for Program Open Space funding.

Facility Development

Development of Park Master Plans:

The County has prepared park master plans for each of the three district parks. These plans were developed in the mid- to late 1990s with public participation. The park master plans are being implemented through projects in the County's Capital Improvements Program.

Set asides under the Zoning Ordinance/Subdivision Regulations:

Prior to 1994, Calvert County required recreation areas in all new subdivisions for the use of residents within the subdivisions. However, a survey of recreation sites conducted in the late 1980s demonstrated that the vast majority of sites were not used and were not adequately maintained. Most residential subdivisions in Calvert County have fewer than 30 houses and, therefore, do not have enough people to support on-site recreation. This situation provided part of the rationale for substituting the on-site recreation requirement for a recreation fee (now the excise tax, described below under "Funding").

All new residential dwellings are subject to a recreation fee. Recreation areas and facilities must be provided on-site in residential subdivisions with more than 50 dwelling units and all townhouse and multi-family housing developments, in addition to the payment of the recreation fee. The amount of acreage and the types of required facilities are based upon the number of dwelling units within each development. For residential subdivisions, the Planning Commission may, at its discretion, accept land or facilities in lieu of fees in cases where the

land or facility is deemed suitable and appropriately located for parks, playgrounds, green spaces such as designated trails or greenways, or other recreational purposes.

Specialized Recreation Programs provided at facilities

The County provides specialized recreation programs, including providing public boat access to the Patuxent River, fishing piers on the Patuxent River and Chesapeake Bay, a campground facility along the Bay, and a skatepark at Dunkirk District Park.

The Navy Recreation Center Solomons provides recreation for Department of Defense personnel and retirees. The 295-acre center is operated by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Department of the Naval District Washington. The Navy Recreation Center provides “a wide array of lodging, including campgrounds, cottages, bungalows, cabins and apartment rentals. Recreational facilities such as picnic pavilions, a recreation center, a 124-slip marina, fishing pier, swimming pools, beach, miniature golf, driving range, basketball courts and tennis courts are just a few of the recreational amenities available” (Naval District Washington). Access is limited to Department of Defense personnel.

Joint use agreements with public and private schools, colleges and other institutions

The Calvert County government has an agreement with the Calvert County Board of Education to use ballfields and ball diamonds at the schools. These school facilities are available during non-school hours.

Waterway access

While Calvert County is the smallest county in the State of Maryland, its peninsular-shape creates many miles of shoreline. The County is bordered on the east and south by the Chesapeake Bay and on the west by the Patuxent River. There are approximately 101 miles of shoreline. The Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach, the County, and the State each provide public access to tidal waters. One of the Objectives of the 2004 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan is to “Provide public access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.” A list of waterway access sites is provided in Appendix A. Waterway access includes such sites where a person can launch or tie up a vessel (motorized, sail, or human powered, like a canoe or kayak), swim, fish, or access a beach. It does not include waterfront sites that provide water views but no access to the water. In addition to water access provided by the three levels of government, commercial marinas and campgrounds provide access to the Patuxent River and the Chesapeake Bay.

Calvert County is the home to many vessels. The number of vessels registered to Calvert County residents has increased about 8% over 5 years, from 5,156 vessels in 2000 to 5,581 in 2004. The number of vessels with a homeport of Calvert County has increased about 6% over the past five years, from 972 in 2000 to 1,035 in 2004. “Homeport” vessels are kept within Calvert County while their owners may reside either inside or outside Calvert County. A majority of boats registered in the State of Maryland, about 64%, are kept on trailers (132,660 of the statewide total of 206,681). (Maryland Department of Natural Resources, 2005)

Facilities for particular populations such as youth, elderly and disabled

Facilities for youth, such as playground equipment, are provided in the district parks and at the smaller community parks, such as the Dowell Community Center in St. Leonard. Dunkirk District Park includes a skate park for skateboarding. The Town of North Beach’s 4th

Street Park includes a tot lot, and the North Beach Community Center is the home for the Boys and Girls Club. The Town of Chesapeake Beach operates the Chesapeake Beach Water Park, which opened in 1995. The outdoor pool at Cove Point Park Family Aquatic Center, which opened in the summer of 2006, has a wading pool and a leisure pool and waterslide especially for children, in addition to a lap pool.

The County government operates three senior centers in the northern, central and southern areas of the county: Calvert Pines Senior Center in Prince Frederick, Southern Pines Senior Center in Lusby, and North Beach Senior Center in North Beach. Recreational/educational activities provided include bowling leagues, cards, games, ceramics, computer labs, crafts, educational classes, fine arts, game rooms, golf league, intergenerational activities, physical fitness, pool & card tournaments, special event celebrations/activities, and trips/cultural events. Each senior center has a senior council, which actively promotes programming and activities. The senior councils also raise funds for special activities and equipment.

The County provides specialized classes for a range of abilities. The County employs two certified therapeutic recreation specialists who provide programming for individuals with various disabilities ranging from developmental to physical to aging. The County is working toward making all facilities accessible. Buildings and sections of the parks are accessible for individuals with disabilities.

Environmental education

The County government provides a broad range of educational programs to the general public. Guided tours, general public nature interpretative programs, and environmental education for organized groups are offered year round. Calvert County's nature sites are major destinations for residents and visitors. During FY 2004-2005, over 36,600 people visited the three primary sites: Flag Ponds Nature Park, King's Landing Park, and Battle Creek Cypress Swamp Sanctuary.

CHESPAX is the environmental education program for the Calvert County Public School System. CHESPAX is a unique program in which the Board of Education staff works closely with local, state and regional partner agencies to provide hands-on environmental education experiences for the students of Calvert County. The Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River and other natural settings serve as living laboratories for students to use their science content and process skills to learn to make responsible decisions regarding the natural environment. Students and teachers work with CHESPAX staff on a variety of special projects including energy conservation, the Green Schools program, Schoolyard Habitat improvements or serving as a resource for science fair projects and other environmentally related efforts. The CHESPAX staff is based at King's Landing Park in Huntingtown. (Board of Education, 2005) Educational field experiences are provided for students in grades 1 through 7. The program is a cooperative effort among the Board of Education, Calvert County Natural Resources Division, Calvert Marine Museum, and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

Integration with economic development and tourism

The Calvert County Department of Economic Development actively promotes Calvert County's parks and natural sites as destinations for both residents and tourists. The Department lists both public and private recreation sites in the Visitors Guide (printed and on-line

versions), on the county's web site www.cal.co.md.us, and on the Department's web site www.ecalvert.com. In addition, the Department annually prepares and publishes the Calvert County Calendar of Events, which is available both in print and digital formats, and coordinates the inclusion of county activities to the *Maryland Calendar of Events*. The Department is the clearinghouse for the county's sites that are included in the State's annual publication, *Destination Maryland*, published by the Maryland Office of Tourism Development.

On a regional basis, the County is a partner in the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium. The Consortium's mission is to enhance the economic activity of Southern Maryland through combining quality heritage tourism and small business development preservation, cultural and natural resource conservation and education. The Southern Maryland Heritage Area is "a combination of historic sites and properties, small museums, recreational areas, the agricultural bedrock of our history along with natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay and its contributory waterways." The Southern Maryland Travel and Tourism Committee, appointed by the boards of county commissioners of Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties, is responsible for marketing the three-county area as a visitor destination. The Committee produces the *Southern Maryland Bicycle Map* and the *Southern Maryland Heritage Driving Tour Map*, which is based upon themes identified in the *Southern Maryland Heritage Area Heritage Tourism Management Plan*. The County also participates in the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network. The Network is comprised of 140 sites throughout the Bay region; 10 of the 37 sites listed for Maryland's Western Shore (a nine county region) are located in Calvert County. Calvert's Gateways include nature preserves, museums, the Solomons Visitors Center, and the Chesapeake Biological Laboratory. The Bay Gateways Program has provided grant funds to provide exhibits at many of Calvert's Gateway sites.

Information technology used to support public awareness of recreational opportunities

The County uses the web to promote visitation to the parks and for providing information about classes, activities, and park facility information. The program guide is published four times a year. It is posted to the web and a hardcopy is mailed to all Calvert County postal patrons (over 37,000 as of March 2005).

- *How does the County invest Program Open Space funds in parks, recreation and open space to complement and support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive / master plans, including the eight visions of State Planning Policy?*

The County prepares a Program Open Space Annual Program, described in detail above in the Land Acquisition section.

- *How does the County attempt to ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers; help to protect natural open spaces and resources; and complement community design and infrastructure?*

The County's action plan includes developing a full range of recreational sites and facilities serving town centers. The town centers are the County's primary designated growth areas, and are designated as Priority Funding Areas under the State's "Smart Growth" Areas Act of 1997, Chapter 759 of the Laws of Maryland of 1997. The State Act allows

counties to designate Priority Funding Areas based upon land use, water and sewer service, and residential density criteria. There are nine Town Centers designated in Calvert County: the municipalities of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach, and the seven Town Centers of Dunkirk, Owings, Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, St. Leonard, Lusby and Solomons. The Town Centers are fairly evenly distributed along the County's approximately 35-mile length (refer to Figure III-2 Calvert County's Priority Preservation Areas and Growth Areas Map). The County requires the residential subdivisions over 50 dwelling units and townhouse and multi-family residential developments to provide recreation land and facilities. In most cases, the excise tax that is collected for the recreation fund must be spent within the municipality or election district from which they are collected, except in certain instances. (The Excise Tax is described in detail in "Funding" section of this chapter.)

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan states that priority is to be given "to preserving and acquiring key Countywide natural, cultural, and historic sites while they are still available." (Action II-57 on Page 54). The County has used the State's Rural Legacy Program to purchase easements on properties and to acquire four properties totaling over 450 acres. The four acquired properties help preserve habitat in the Battle Creek and Parkers Creek watersheds.

The Zoning Ordinance requirements specify certain standards to ensure that on-site recreation sites are suitably located and appropriate to the age groups and population to be served.

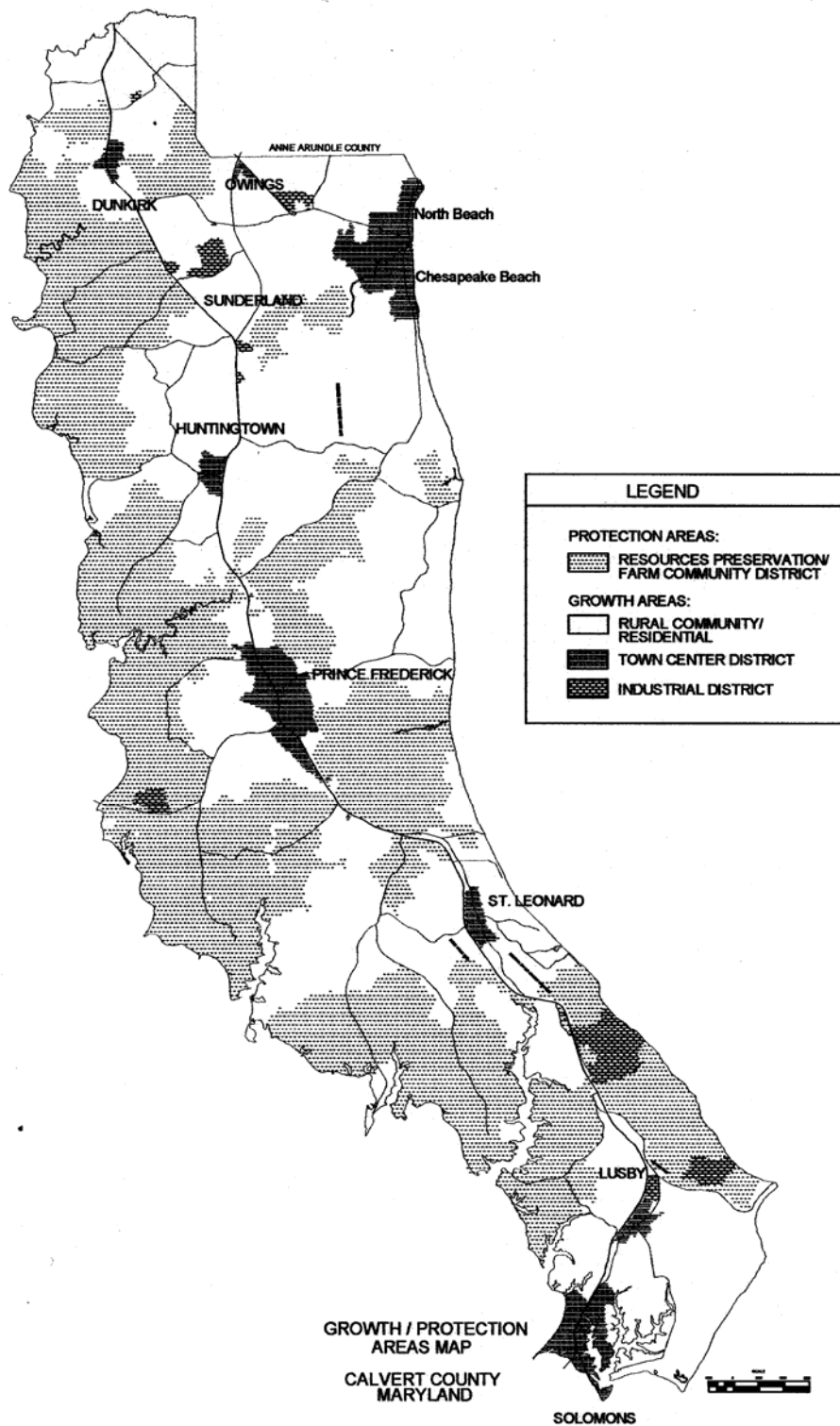
- *How does the County set priorities for recreational land acquisition and facility development to make existing communities and planned growth areas more desirable, thereby encouraging private investment in those areas commensurate with the priorities of the comprehensive plan?*

The County has established a priority that "the town centers are to serve as focal points for community-based recreation. Recreational sites and facilities will not only help shape and define the character of town centers, but they will also help attract new residents to towns instead of out into the countryside. They will also make recreation more accessible to more people, particularly young people and the elderly who may not have convenient access to cars." (2004 Comprehensive Plan, Page 54)

- *How does the County seek to ensure a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities are readily accessible to all of its citizens?*

The County has the Comprehensive Plan, the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, the Town Center Master Plans, and the Capital Improvements Program to ensure a variety of recreational opportunities are readily accessible to our citizens. As noted in this Chapter's introduction section, the Comprehensive Plan includes the objective, "Ensure that a wide selection of public recreational facilities and programs are provided to meet the interests and needs of all ages, incomes, and abilities." (Page 52) Regarding physical access to the parks, County bus service is available to one of the three district parks, Cove Point Park. When the County Transportation Division relocates from

Figure III-2 Priority Preservation and Priority Growth Areas Map



historic Prince Frederick to the Calvert County Industrial Park on Hallowing Point Road, service to Hallowing Point Park will be available. Many of the parks located in the seven town centers and the municipalities of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach are accessible by foot and bicycle.

Funding

Capital Funds:

Recreation acquisition and development projects are funded through four main sources: an excise tax for recreation, general obligation bonds, the County's general fund, and the County's local share apportionment from the State's Program Open Space. The percentage of each funding source in the 2005-2010 Capital Improvements Program is 25% from the excise tax, 68% from general obligation bonds, 4% from the general fund, and 3% from Program Open Space.

Calvert County Recreation Fund Funded through an Excise Tax

In December 1994, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a Recreation Fund to help provide for the recreational needs of citizens. An excise tax on new residential structures is collected for recreation. The tax, which is based upon each household's share of the recreation standard (30 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons), is collected at the time building permits are issued. In most cases, the funds must be spent within the election district or municipality from which they are collected. Funds may only be spent outside a municipality from which they were collected if the town government approves the expenditure of the funds for the benefit of a location outside the municipality. Funds may only be spent outside of an election district from which they are collected if the Board of County Commissioners finds that the expenditure outside the district, or within a municipality within the district, would benefit the inhabitants of the district. Funds may be borrowed from one election district for another district. The excise tax may be waived or reduced if the developer of a subdivision provides a recreation site that is accepted by the County. The Board of County Commissioners may grant a full or partial waiver of the tax applicable to new construction of affordable housing. In 2005, the recreation portion of the excise tax was \$1,300 per residential structure or unit.

Calvert County Open Space Revolving Loan Fund

The Board of County Commissioners created the Open Space Revolving Loan Fund in 1994. The fund provides loans to qualifying non-profit organizations, which have as a primary purpose the preservation of natural and/or cultural resources. Priority is given to projects that provide public access.

Program Open Space (POS)

Each year counties receive a funding apportionment from Program Open Space, a program administered by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of POS is to assist counties in acquiring and developing recreational open space and facilities. Half of the annual allocation may be used for land acquisition and may fund up to 100% of the acquisition cost. The other half of the allocation may be used for either land acquisition or development for up to 75% of the cost. Projects must comply with the goals of the Maryland Land Preservation Plan and be approved by the State. However, counties are given broad discretion in determining their own recreational needs. Cal-

vert County's POS funding apportionments from 2000 to 2006 totaled over \$2.5 million (refer to Table III-1). A total of \$5,310,320 in POS funding has been used to acquire and develop recreational sites and facilities in Calvert County since the program began. The apportionments are listed in table below. Program Open Space also has a stateside component. State Program Open Space funds have been used to purchase Calvert Cliffs State Park, Kings Landing Park, Breezy Point Park, two boat ramps and, in conjunction with the Nature Conservancy, land within the Parkers Creek watershed.

Table III-1 Program Open Space Funding for Calvert County

Fiscal Year	Apportionment from the State
2000	\$ 407,743
2001	\$ 429,990
2002	\$ 512,588
2003	\$ 209,274
2004	\$ 224,000
2005	\$ 182,018
2006	\$ 541,478
Total	\$2,507,091

Federal Land & Water Conservation Funds

Federal funds have been distributed to the states, and subsequently from the states to the counties. Land & Water Conservation Funds have been used to develop recreational facilities in Calvert County. Federal Land & Water Conservation funds have been used in all three district parks: Dunkirk, Hallowing Point, and Cove Point.

Operating Funds

The County has a special revenue fund, the Parks & Recreation Fund. The fund is comprised of three components: Recreation Program Account, Breezy Point Beach and Campground, and the Marley Run Concession Stand. These programs operate solely on monies from collected fees. Revenues are collected in the form of program revenues, rents and concessions, camping, general admission, and miscellaneous income. Funds are charged on a program or admission basis for those utilizing these recreational activities. The estimated revenue in Fiscal Year 2006 is \$1.07 million.

The FY 2006 operating budget for parks and recreational activities provided by the Division of Parks and Recreation is approximately \$3.2 million. The FY 2006 operating budget for the Division of Natural Resources is approximately \$700,000.

B. NEEDS ANALYSIS AND COUNTY PRIORITIES FOR LANDS, FACILITIES, & REHABILITATION

This section details Calvert County's priorities for land acquisition, facilities, and rehabilitation. The County updated its inventory of the supply of recreation and natural resource lands, analyzed the demand for recreation activities based upon two state surveys, and prepared the needs analysis based upon the supply and demand. The needs analysis results are best estimates, based

upon interests of the survey respondents in Southern Maryland. The mid- and long-range priorities may change based upon the changing interests of County citizens.

1. Supply

The Maryland Electronic Inventory of Recreation Sites (MEIRS) is a digital database established by the Maryland Department of Planning for use by the counties. Calvert County used the MEIRS database to compile the supply of recreation and natural resource lands. County-owned land and land owned by the municipalities of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach are included in MEIRS. State-owned land that is leased by the County was also included (King's Landing and Solomons Boat Ramps & Fishing Pier). In a couple of instances, land owned by non-profits and made available to the public were included in the MEIRS database (Calvert County Fairgrounds and the East-John Youth Center). Land owned in the Battle Creek watershed by the Battle Creek Nature Education Society and by The Nature Conservancy was included, along with land owned in the Parkers Creek watershed by the American Chestnut Land Trust. Private recreational acreage in residential subdivisions was included since this acreage is accessible to members of the community in which it is situated and can be reasonably construed as helping to meet public demand for open space. The recreation acreage for subdivisions was obtained from the State's Maryland Property View program; this acreage is not inventoried in the MEIRS database. The County will update the MEIRS database as land is acquired and facilities are developed, and will review the database on a yearly basis.

The County's geographic information system (GIS) includes layers of information such as orthophotography from April 6, 2003, topography, property boundaries, and addresses. Data is provided to private property owners and commercial entities based upon an approved pricing schedule and is provided at no cost to local, State, and Federal governments, Calvert County Public Schools, public utilities providing services within the county, land trusts, and other specified entities. County staff uses the GIS data to identify and evaluate potential acquisition properties. A potential GIS layer could be the recreation sites inventoried in the MEIRS database.

As of 2005, Calvert County had a total of 4,282 acres of recreation and natural resource land. Table III-2 lists these lands by type and shows the amount of acreage each contributes. For State definitions of park/land classifications, refer to Appendix B. A detailed list is provided in Appendix C.

Table III-2 Recreation and Natural Resource Land by Type

Type	Number	Acres	Examples
Mini-park	5	3	Chesapeake Veteran's Park, Lower Marlboro Wharf, Courthouse Green
Neighborhood park	5	26	Broomes Island Community Center, Twin Shields Recreational Area, Hutchin's Fishing Pond
Community park	11	111	Dowell House, Kellem Memorial Recreational Park, North Beach Community Center
Regional park	3	274	District Parks: Cove Point, Dunkirk, and Hallowing Point
Special use areas	12	108	Breezy Point Beach & Campground, Calvert Library, senior centers, community centers
Educational recreational areas	18	170	Elementary school recreational areas, middle and high school ballfields
Natural resources/open space	9	1,562	Biscoe Gray Reserve, Fishing Creek Park, Fowler Road Open Space
Historical/cultural area	6	19	Calvert Marine Museum, Cove Point Lighthouse, Linden
Private open space	5+	2,009	American Chestnut Land Trust, Battle Creek Nature & Education Society, subdivision recreational acreage
Total	74	4,282	

For each category of recreation, the number of sites and the number of units (number of fields for field sports or number of miles for trails) are shown in Appendix D.

2. Demand

Two state surveys were used in determining demand for recreational facilities. In addition to these, input from the public meetings held in early 2005 (see Appendix H) and interviews with County and town staff, were used in determining supply, demand, and need. The public provides comments on the County's provision of recreation sites and programs on an on-going basis. The County staff works with youth sport leagues, home owner associations, community associations, and the Parks and Recreation Board.

Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities in Maryland: A Survey of Households in Maryland and Seven Sub-State Regions was published in May 2003 (Norris, Donald F., and Royce Hanson). *State Park and Natural Resource Areas in Maryland: A Survey of Public Opinion* was also published in May 2003 (Norris, Donald F., and Royce Hanson).

The *Participation in Local Park and Recreation Activities* survey was conducted in January 2003 and comprised a random sample of 400 households in the Southern Maryland region (Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties). "The survey provided information on the levels and frequency of participation by household members and individuals in 83 park and recreation activities as well as opinions about the adequacy of 11 different kinds of park and recreation facilities in their counties." (Page viii)

Executive Summary Highlights:

- In general, people reported that they and members of their households were frequent users of local parks and recreation facilities.
 - Over two thirds of Maryland *households* contain members that walk and someone in three of every five households attends a fair or festival in a local park.
 - More people engaged in individual, family or group activities than participated in organized sports.
 - Attending fairs and festivals (55.8%), walking (49.5%), swimming (45.6%) picnicking (37%), visiting playgrounds (34%), and going to outdoor concerts (26.9%) engaged the largest percentages of *individuals* across the state.
 - Fishing made the top ten lists in Western Maryland, Southern Maryland, and the Upper Eastern Shore.
 - Power boating was among the ten favorite activities of individuals in Southern Maryland.
 - Dog exercising beat out basketball in Western Maryland, Suburban Baltimore, Southern Maryland, and Upper and Lower Eastern Shore.
 - Large percentages of Western Maryland (64%) and Southern Maryland (62.8%) said their counties did not have enough bike lanes.
 - A large majority of Southern Marylanders (61.8%) said there were not enough swimming pools in their counties.
- (Pages viii and ix)

Southern Maryland Highlights

- Fishing from a boat, power boating, and pleasure biking are among the top ten activities for Southern Maryland households.
 - The favorite activity for households with children is attending fairs or festivals.
 - More households with children have members that play golf than play basketball.
 - Basketball is the highest ranked court sport, at 16th for all households, 22nd for adult households and 12th for households with children.
 - Baseball, ranked 20th for all households, is the highest ranked field sport. It ranks 15th among households with children, just below soccer.
 - Fewer people play soccer than baseball, but they play it more frequently.
 - Almost as many respondents (61.8%) said there were not enough swimming pools as said there were not enough bike lanes (62.8%). More than seven of every ten from households with children said there were not enough swimming pools.
 - More than half of all respondents and 69 percent of those from households with children said there are not enough indoor recreation facilities.
 - Half of those living in households with children said their counties did not have enough trails and pathways.
- (Page 72)

The survey included 400 households (226 adult households and 174 households with children), representing 1,135 individuals (445 from adult households and 690 from households with children). Survey results for the most popular activities are shown in Tables III-3, III-4, and III-5 (Survey Pages 73-74).

Table III-3: The Ten Most Popular Park and Recreation Activities of Southern Maryland Households

Activity	All Households		Adult Households		Households with Children	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Walking	64.8	1	61.1	1	69.5	2
Attending Fairs or Festivals	61.8	2	53.1	2	73.0	1
Swimming Pool	50.5	3	41.2	3	62.6	4
Swimming Beach/River/Lake	48.0	4	39.8	4	58.6	5
Visiting Playgrounds	40.8	5	23.0	10	63.8	3
Picnicking	37.3	6	30.1	5	46.6	6
Fishing from Boat	32.0	7	28.8	6	36.2	7
Attending Outdoor Concerts	30.0	8	28.8	7	31.6	11
Power Boating	26.5	9	23.9	9	29.9	13
Pleasure/ Recreational Biking	25.5	10	18.1	13	35.1	8

Table III-4: Other Park and Recreation Activities Attracting Participants from More Than 10 Percent of Southern Maryland Households

Activity	All Households		Adult Households		Households with Children	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Hiking	23.8	11	24.3	8	23.0	19
Golf	23.5	12	15.0	14	34.5	9
Fishing from Shore/Bank	22.3	13	13.3	15	33.9	10
Dog Exercising	22.3	14	23.0	12	21.3	21
Nature/Gardening Programs	21.8	15	23.0	11	20.1	22
Basketball	18.3	16	9.3	22	29.9	12
Hunting	17.8	17	12.8	16	24.1	17
Jogging	16.0	18	10.2	20	23.6	18
Weight Training	15.8	19	12.8	17	19.5	23
Baseball	15.3	20	6.6	27	26.4	15
Soccer	14.0	21	3.1	37	28.2	14
Running	13.0	22	6.2	29	28.2	14
Horseshoes	12.5	23	12.4	18	12.6	30
In-Line Skating	12.5	24	2.2	41	25.9	16
Fishing from Pier	12.5	25	8.0	25	18.4	24
Softball	12.3	26	9.3	21	16.1	27
Tent Camping	11.0	27	5.8	31	17.8	25
Nature Walks	10.0	28	8.8	23	11.5	33

Table III-5: Park and Recreation Activities Attracting Participants from 2 to 10 Percent of Southern Maryland Households

Activity	All Households		Adult Households		Households with Children	
	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Tennis	9.8	29	8.4	24	11.5	31
Aerobics/ Fitness Classes	9.5	30	8.0	26	11.5	32
Football	8.5	31	4.4	32	13.8	28
Bird Watching	8.5	32	10.6	19	5.7	47
Target Shooting	8.0	33	5.8	30	10.9	35
Skate Boarding	7.5	34	0.4	58	16.7	26
Downhill Skiing	7.0	35	1.8	44	13.8	29
Ice Skating	6.8	36	3.5	35	10.9	34
Volleyball	6.3	37	4.0	34	9.2	36
Sailing	6.3	38	6.6	28	5.7	46
Canoeing	6.3	39	4.4	33	8.6	40
Skeet or Trap Shooting	5.5	40	2.7	39	9.2	39
Trail Riding	5.3	41	2.2	42	9.2	38
RV Camping	5.0	42	2.7	40	8.0	41
Mountain Biking	4.8	43	3.5	36	6.3	43
Roller Skating	4.3	44	0.4	59	9.2	37
Water Skiing	4.3	45	1.8	43	7.5	42
Kayaking	3.5	46	2.7	38	4.6	48
Lacrosse	3.3	47	1.3	45	5.7	45
Archery	3.0	48	0.4	65	6.3	44
Racquetball	2.3	49	1.3	46	3.4	51
Snow Boarding	2.3	50	0.4	63	4.6	49
Field Hockey	2.0	51	0.4	54	4.0	50

3. Needs Determination

Twelve activities, including the four specified by the State (athletic fields, baseball diamonds, basketball courts and tennis courts) were analyzed to compare the supply with the demand. Field sports were separated into spring and fall. Other activities analyzed include pools (outdoor), picnic shelters, playgrounds, skateparks, equestrian trails, fishing from pier, kayaking & canoeing, and swimming at beach/river/lake.

Table III-6 summarizes the results. The detailed analysis tables are shown in Appendix E. Of the dozen activities, there is a sufficient supply in one activity (fishing from pier) and deficits in the other eleven.

Table III-6: Summary Needs Report of the Twelve Activities

Activity	Facility Type	Existing Facilities	2005 Unmet Need	2020 Unmet Need
Baseball/Softball	Diamonds	22	16	20
Fields Sports – Spring	Fields	13	4	6
Field Sports – Fall	Fields	25	0	3
Basketball	Courts	7	9	11
Tennis	Courts	13	0	1
Pools (outdoor) *	Pools	2	2	2
Picnic Shelters	Picnic Shelters	6	7	8
Playgrounds	Playgrounds	8	0	1
Skateparks	Skateparks	1	5	5
Equestrian Trails	Trail Miles	0	6.7	7.5
Fishing from Pier	Fishing Spots (8 feet per fishable spot)	260	0	0
Kayaking & Canoeing	Public Launch Sites & Ramps	17	1	3
Swimming at Beach/River/Lake	Miles of Beach	1.3	0.2	0.4

*Note: Indoor pool not included since Program Open Space does not fund indoor pools.

The existing recreational facilities for baseball/softball, field sports, basketball, tennis, pools, picnic shelters, playgrounds and skateparks are those that the County government owns or leases. There are additional facilities available, for example, on the Board of Education's property. These, however, were not included since they are not available except during non-school hours and may be pre-empted for educational facility needs (i.e., placement of temporary trailers).

4. County Priorities for Land Acquisition, Facility Development, and Rehabilitation

Table III-7 shows the County's and the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach's priorities for land acquisition, development, and rehabilitation from 2005 through 2020. The County Comprehensive Plan gives priority to acquiring key Countywide natural, cultural, and historic sites while they are still available. Land banking is high encouraged.

These priorities were developed in concert with the 2004 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Chesapeake Beach's 2002 Comprehensive Plan, the seven Town Center Master Plans, prior Calvert County Land Preservation & Recreation Plans, the park master plans, the recent State surveys, and the results of the supply, need and demand analysis. The towns of Chesapeake Beach's and North Beach's priorities have been included, as reported in the FY 2006 Program Open Space Annual Report.

Following the table are descriptions of the acquisition and development projects.

Table III-7: County Priorities for Acquisition, Development and Rehabilitation

Projects for Acquisition

					Estimated Short-Range: 2006-2011 Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Mid-Range: 2015 Cost (\$1,000s)			Estimated Long-Range: 2020 Cost (\$1,000s)		
Project	Location	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation / Comprehensive Plan Recommendation	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000s)	Acres to be acquired	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation
Canoe Launch Sites	County Creeks	Provide public access to the Chesapeake Bay & Patuxent River	\$150	2				\$150					
Flag Ponds Nature Park	Lusby	Acquire key natural sites	\$1,400	70				\$1,400					
Patuxent Waterfront Park	Patuxent River	Provide public access to the Chesapeake Bay & Patuxent River	\$2,000	60								\$2,000	
War of 1812 Star Spangled Banner Hiking/ Biking Trail	St. Leonard, Lusby, & Solomons	Acquire key cultural sites & Connect Countywide parks to each other and to town centers	\$400	32				\$400					
Parkers Creek Watershed	Prince Frederick/ Port Republic	Acquire key natural sites	Not identified	N/I									
Huntingtown Town Center Park	Huntingtown	Each Town Center should have a town park/village green	\$250	6				\$250					
Dowell House Property Addition	St. Leonard	Each Town Center should have a town park/village green	\$160	.23				\$160					
Hallowing Point Park Addition	Prince Frederick	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$600	40				\$600					
Huntingtown District Park	Huntingtown	Each Town Center should have an active team sports outdoor facility.	\$2,000	100				\$2,000				\$20,000	
Northeast Sector Park		Each Town Center should have an active team sports outdoor facility.	\$2,000	100				\$2,000					

Project	Location	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation / Comprehensive Plan Recommendation	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000s)	Acres to be acquired	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation
St. Leonard District Park	St. Leonard	Each Town Center should have an active team sports outdoor facility.	\$2,000	100				\$2,000				\$20,000	
Dunkirk Community Center	Dunkirk	Each Town Center should have an indoor community center	\$500	1				\$500					
Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-way	Chesapeake Beach	Connect Countywide parks to each other and to town centers	Not identified										
Wetlands Wildlife Observation Park	North Beach		\$100	35+				\$100					
Town Park	North Beach		\$220	0.3				\$220					

Projects for Development

King Memorial Park	Prince Frederick	Each Town Center should have a town park/village green	\$214						\$214				
Hallowing Point Park	Prince Frederick	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$1,813			\$1,813							
Dunkirk District Park	Dunkirk	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$4,972			\$4,972							
Cove Point Park	Lusby	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$2,041			\$2,041							
Solomons Town Center Park	Solomons	Each Town Center should have an active team sports outdoor facility.	\$999			\$999							
Southern Community Center	Lusby	Each Town Center should have an indoor community center	\$2,117*			\$2,117*							
King's Landing	Huntingtown	Provide a wide range of recreational opportunities	\$200			\$200							

Project	Location	Description of Land Preservation and Recreation / Comprehensive Plan Recommendation	Estimated Total Cost (\$1,000s)	Acres to be acquired	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation	Acquisition	Capital Development	Rehabilitation
Equestrian Show Ring	King's Landing, Huntingtown	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$50			\$50							
Horse Trails	Huntingtown, Prince Frederick, & Lusby	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$340			\$340							
Prince Frederick Community Center	Prince Frederick	Each Town Center should have an indoor community center	Not identified										
Indoor Aquatic Center	Prince Frederick	Provide one public indoor swimming pool in or near Prince Frederick	\$12,000			\$12,000							
Biscoe Gray Reserve	Prince Frederick	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$35			\$35							
Breezy Point Beach & Campground	Chesapeake Beach	Provide public access to the Chesapeake Bay & Patuxent River	Not identified										
Fishing Creek Park	Chesapeake Beach	Connect Countywide parks to each other and to town centers	\$1,600			\$1,600							
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp	Prince Frederick	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$150			\$150							
Kings Landing Park	Huntingtown	Ensure a wide selection of facilities for all ages, incomes & abilities	\$200			\$200							

*Southern Community Center – funding includes rehabilitation and new facilities.

POTENTIAL ACQUISITION PROJECTS

Canoe Launching Sites

The County is actively looking for at least two additional canoe launching sites along county creeks. Each site will be designed to provide parking space for a limited number of cars and a launching area. Canoe and kayak launch is currently available at Kings Landing Park on the Patuxent River and a canoe launch (floating dock) has recently been constructed at Nan's Cove, near Broomes Island.

Flag Ponds Nature Park

The Wright property, which contains approximately 70 acres, is the single remaining parcel to fulfill the preservation goal of the park which now contains 546 acres of upland hardwood, swamp, marsh and beach habitats. The acquisition of the Wright property could maintain the natural visual integrity along MD 2/4 at the park's entrance. It also provides opportunity for additional trails.

Patuxent Waterfront Park

Public access to the Patuxent River is limited to Kings Landing Park, Hallowing Point, and Solomons. Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum provides views of the river and limited access to the shoreline. In addition to one or more small canoe launching sites, a riverfront park could combine water access and active recreational facilities with historical, cultural and/or natural features.

War of 1812 - Star Spangled Banner Hiking/Biking Trail

This trail would provide access to important War of 1812 sites in the County as well as connect several existing public recreational sites, including Flag Ponds Nature Park, Cove Point Park, Calvert Cliffs State Park, Annmarie Garden and Calvert Marine Museum. The project includes acquisition of a site near or at the location of the old St. Leonard Town peninsula where, during the summer of 1814, two Jeffersonian gunboats serving in Commodore Joshua Barney's Chesapeake flotilla were scuttled in St. Leonard Creek.

Parkers Creek Watershed

This project is viewed as an intergovernmental cooperative effort to acquire and protect this unique watershed. As of 2005, over 3,000 acres (25% of the land area within the watershed) have been preserved through actions taken by the American Chestnut Land Trust, the Department of Natural Resources, the Nature Conservancy and private property owners. Calvert County has assisted these efforts through its Transferable Development Rights program and its Revolving Loan Fund.

Huntingtown Town Center Park

A Town Center park, called for in the Huntingtown Master Plan, would provide a playground in addition to a lake, trail system, tennis courts and an all purpose playing field.

Dowell House Property Addition - St. Leonard

The County purchased the Dowell House several years ago using POS funding. The House now functions as a community center for the Town of St. Leonard, offering meet-

ing space, picnic tables and a playground in the back yard. Acquiring additional property adjacent to Dowell House will fulfill an objective of the St. Leonard Master Plan to provide a public square and community center in a centralized location.

Hallowing Point Park Addition - Hall Property

The purchase of this property will add 40 acres to an existing 81-acre district park and enable the County to meet a strong demand for additional athletic fields. The property is level and well-suited to active recreational use.

Huntingtown Community Park

The County is actively seeking property in the vicinity of Huntingtown to build a park that will be similar to the County's existing parks at Dunkirk, Hallowing Point and Cove Point. Proposed facilities will include ballfields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, restroom and concession facilities, maintenance areas, and other facilities as the property will allow.

Northeast Sector Park

The County is seeking property in the vicinity of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach to build a park that will be similar to the County's existing parks at Dunkirk, Hallowing Point and Cove Point. Proposed facilities will include ballfields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, restroom and concession facilities, maintenance areas, and other facilities as the property will allow.

St. Leonard Community Park

The County is actively seeking property in the vicinity of St. Leonard to build a park that will be similar to the County's existing parks at Dunkirk, Hallowing Point and Cove Point. Proposed facilities will include ballfields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, tennis and basketball courts, hiking trails, restroom and concession facilities, maintenance areas, and other facilities as the property will allow.

Dunkirk Community Center

A community center similar to the Dowell House in St. Leonard is needed for community meetings and activities in Dunkirk.

Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-Way

The Chesapeake Beach Railroad Right-of-Way has the potential of becoming a pedestrian/bicycle/horseback riding trail that would provide recreation to area residents and promote tourism. The total length of the corridor is approximately 7.7 miles. The off-road portion of the right-of-way (approximately 3.4 miles) involves 18 separate parcels. In May, 1998, the County acquired a 104-acre tract that includes a portion of the right-of-way through a combination of Bay Access funds, Critical Area mitigation funds and local side POS funds.

Wetlands Wildlife Observation Park in North Beach

The Town of North Beach has a valuable natural resource in the form of wetlands situated in the northern part of town, east and west of State Highway 261. If properly managed, this resource would provide many benefits including opportunities for recreation

and aesthetic appreciation, food and habitat for fish and wildlife, flood protection and pollution control. Proper design and planning of the Wetlands Park would provide for endless opportunities for popular recreational activities such as hiking and boating and would, at the same time, maintain an ecological balance.

Callis Memorial Park Addition

This parcel is adjacent to the Robert W. Callis Memorial Park and the new North Beach Senior Center. The acquisition of this 13,125 sq. ft. parcel would be used as a passive recreation area and include benches, chairs and chess/checker tables.

POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

King Memorial Park

A seven-acre site in the center of Prince Frederick Town Center was donated to the County by Mr. Boyd King in July, 1993. The property is located directly adjacent to the Courthouse and includes a portion of the former Baltimore & Drum Point railroad right-of-way that is proposed as an in-town trail. The park Master Plan includes hiking trails, a pavilion, a playground, and a formal garden immediately across from Linden, an historic house acquired by the County for public use through the use of POS funds. Proposed POS funds would be used to make improvements to the park.

Hallowing Point Park

Hallowing Point Park is one of three district parks in the County. The County is in the process of implementing the Hallowing Point Park Master Plan for the build-out of the park. In FY 2006 field lighting will be added at field three in order to extend the use into the evening hours. In FY 2007 additional playing fields will be developed on the Hall property (which is leased), several picnic shelters will be constructed, and planning will begin for additional parking.

Dunkirk District Park

Dunkirk District Park is one of three district parks in the county. The County is in the process of implementing the Dunkirk Park Master Plan for the build-out of the park. In FY 2006, the County will be developing a full size football/soccer field with field lighting, a parking lot and a bathroom. In FY 2007 a dog park will be constructed, planning will continue for an outdoor aquatic center and construction of a multi-purpose playing field will begin.

Cove Point Park

Cove Point Park is one of three district parks located in the County. Funding will be needed to implement the master plan for the build-out of the park. Future facilities may include additional playing fields, a skateboard park, roller hockey courts, picnic shelters, playgrounds, hiking trails, restrooms, concession stands and parking. In FY 2006 a family aquatics center will open featuring a wading pool, leisure pool and lap pool. In FY 2007 three playing fields and a parking lot will be lit and an accessible playground will be constructed.

Solomons Town Center Park

Solomons Town Center Park was purchased from the Annmarie Garden Board of Trustees in FY 2004. This 20-acre parcel will provide active recreation for residents in the

southern end of the county. In FY 2007 Construction of ballfields and parking lots will begin.

Southern Community Center

The Southern Community Center will be renovated and a gymnasium added.

Equestrian Show Ring at Kings Landing Park

This project is to construct two rings: a 150' by 300' ring, and a smaller 100' by 200' ring for casual riding and equestrian shows. Associated with the rings will be a 12' by 16' roofed judges' stand with electric service, as well as water hydrants to provide water for the animals and a parking area.

Feasibility Study for Horse Trails at Biscoe Gray Reserve, Kings Landing Park and Flag Ponds Nature Park

There is a clear need for designated horseback riding trails in Calvert County. The purpose of this planning grant is to evaluate the Biscoe Gray property, Kings Landing Park and Flag Ponds for potential horse trails. The final product will be an analysis of all three sites, and recommendations for possible implementation of trails in specific locations.

Prince Frederick Community Center

A recreation center similar to the Northeast Center in Chesapeake Beach and Southern Community Center in Lusby is needed to serve central Calvert County.

Prince Frederick Indoor Aquatic Center

An indoor family aquatic center is planned for Prince Frederick.

Biscoe Gray Reserve

Rural Legacy funds were used to acquire the Biscoe Gray property in 2002. This 206-acre site is part of a 1,500 acre greenbelt along Battle Creek and includes farm fields and barns representing Calvert County's long-standing farming tradition. Funding will be used to prepare a Master Plan for the property. Activities are to include hunting, public canoe access, horse trails and cultural interpretation.

Breezy Point Beach & Campground

Breezy Point Park is approximately 16 acres in size and includes 2,000 feet of Bayfront beach with access to Plum Point Creek. In addition to the wide beach area, the property includes a fishing pier, bathhouse, 88 trailer sites, playground and large shaded picnic area. Most of the planned major improvement projects have been completed. However, additional funding may be required in future years.

Fishing Creek Park and the first segment of a ROW Trail - Chesapeake Beach

Purchased through the joint efforts of the State and Calvert County, Fishing Creek Park contains 104 acres, which includes approximately 1,800 feet of the Chesapeake Beach Railroad. This property presents an opportunity for the public to experience a unique hiking trail that combines the cultural heritage of the area with the natural beauty of Fishing Creek and adjoining tidal marsh. Additional opportunities exist to establish a kayak/canoe launch site and to assist Beach Elementary School to enhance their environmental study area. The Town of Chesapeake Beach was recently awarded a \$1.6 mil-

lion T21 grant to develop a portion of the right-of-way that will connect two existing residential subdivisions to the center of town.

C. ACQUISITION (ACREAGE) GOAL

In 1983, the County officially adopted the State's recommended standard of 30 acres of County-provided recreational open space per 1,000 persons. "There are three categories of preserved acreage that count towards this goal: local acreage, a portion of local natural resource acreage, and a portion of qualifying State and Federal acreage." (Guidelines for State & Local Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Planning, October 2003, Page 48) A minimum of 30 acres per 1,000 persons must come from locally owned recreational lands. One-third of certain types of natural resource land can be counted towards the goal. "Private Open space may be counted if the land is permanently preserved as open space, is accessible to members of the community in which it is situated, and can be reasonably construed as helping to meet the public demand for open space" (Page 49). "If needed, up to 15 acres per 1,000 persons of State and Federal Lands present in the county, in excess of 60 acres per 1,000 persons, can be used to meet the default recommended acreage goal." (Page 49)

Based upon the standard of 30 acres per 1,000 persons, the County should provide 2,556 acres in 2005. This amount increases to 2,880 acres in 2020, an increase of 324 acres over 15 years. Refer to Table III-8 for acreage goals for 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020.

Table III-8: Calvert County's Recreational Acreage Goals

Year	2005	2010	2015	2020
Population Estimate/ Projection	85,200	91,000	94,000	96,000
Acreage Goal	2,556	2,730	2,820	2,880

Note: The population estimate and projections are the Calvert County Planning & Zoning Department's. These are used since they are based upon the most recent zoning.

As of December 2005, Calvert County is providing 1,889 acres of recreation and natural resource land. This amount is short of the 2005 goal by 667 acres. The County and Towns of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach will need to acquire an additional 991 acres in order to meet the 2020 goal of providing 2,880 acres. Refer to Table III-9 for future acreage needs in 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020.

Table III-9 Calvert County's Future Recreational Acreage Needs

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Year	Population Current Estimate/ Projection	Recreation and Open Space Acreage Goal	Local Recreation Acreage	Local Natural Resources Land	Applicable State and Federal Land	Total	Acreage Required to Meet Goal
2005	85,200	2,556	692.6	1,196.4	0	1,889	667
2010	91,000	2,730	692.6	1,196.4	0	1,889	841
2015	94,000	2,820	692.6	1,196.4	0	1,889	931
2020	96,000	2,880	692.6	1,196.4	0	1,889	991

Notes:

Column 4 is 1/3 of the total local natural resource acreage that meets the State's qualifications.

Column 5 shows zero acres. While there are 4,746 acres of State and Federal recreation lands in Calvert County, only qualified acreage above 60 acres per 1,000 persons (60 acres x 85 thousand people, or 5,100 acres) can be used to meet the acreage goal. Since there are 3,454 acres of qualified acreage, none may be used towards the acreage goal.

As of 2005, Calvert County had a total of 4,282 acres. However, only 2,440 acres of recreation and natural resource is counted towards the state goal. Only 1/3rd of the natural resource and private open space is counted (for specifics, see Section D of this Chapter).

The Project Selection Process for acquisitions and development projects begins with the Action Plan identified in both the Recreation Chapter of the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan and this Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. The Action Plan outlines a comprehensive recreation strategy that brings existing and future recreational sites and facilities into an interconnected recreation network, capable of serving a full spectrum of ages, interests and abilities (refer to Page III-2).

On the basis of the Action Plan, potential acquisition and development projects are identified and listed in this Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan. Projects that may be eligible for Program Open Space (POS) funding are also listed in the POS Annual Report. (Projects must be listed in the Annual Report in order to be eligible for Program Open Space Funding.)

During the Annual Capital Improvement Budget Review Process, the Capital Projects Coordinator (who also serves as the POS liaison) meets with the "Open Space Committee", comprised of representatives from the Department of General Services (Parks and Recreation Division and Natural Resources Division), the Department of Economic Development (Tourism Division) and the Department of Planning and Zoning to review projects identified in this Plan and the POS Annual Program. Selected projects are submitted to the Board of County Commissioners in the draft Capital Improvement Budget for review. Those that are approved for funding are listed in the approved CIP and reviewed annually.

The Open Space Committee maintains an ongoing search for properties that meet one or more of the objectives identified in the Action Plan. Members of the committee evaluate potential sites and make their findings known to the Board of County Commissioners for action.

The County shortfall will be reduced as land is acquired. It is important to note, however, that any acquisition of natural resource land will only contribute 33% of the acreage towards the goal since only a portion of such land may be included based upon the State standard. Since Calvert County is a growing rural county, with many notable natural features, such as the Calvert Cliffs and the Chesapeake Bay, many of the County's acquisitions are for natural resource lands.

Public Land Not Included in the Current Acreage Supply

County Land: A considerable amount of recreation land and open space acreage exists in Calvert County that under the State's standard may not be counted towards meeting the acreage goal. Only one-third of County-owned natural resource areas and historic cultural areas count towards the County's goal. For example, only one-third of the Biscoe Gray Reserve, 69 of the 206 acres, counts toward the goal.

State Land: In Calvert County, there are 4,451 acres of State park land managed by the Department of Natural Resources and the Maryland Historical Trust.

Federal Land: While the Navy Recreation Center Solomons provides 295-acres of recreation for Department of Defense personnel and retirees, this acreage is not included in the acreage account since it does not meet the State's criteria of qualifying acreage.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Calvert County government provides many opportunities for public involvement in the planning for parks, recreation, and open space. The County's policy document, the 2004 Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, which includes a section on recreation, was developed with extensive citizen involvement. The County mailed a 32-page summary of the draft plan to every postal patron in the County, over 36,500 patrons, in the summer of 2004. The summary booklet asked that citizens attend the public forum on August 30, submit written comments, and attend the public hearing, which was held on October 26, 2004.

The public was invited to participate in the development of the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan through a series of public presentations held in January 2005. Invitation letters were sent to an extensive list of citizen and civic organizations, homeowners and neighborhood associations, County-appointed boards and commissions, recreational leagues, land trusts, public and private schools, and other groups interested in recreation, natural resources conservation, and land preservation. (See Appendix G for the full list of invitees). The County staff offered to give presentations to the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach. The Town of North Beach requested a presentation, which was held in April 2005.

The draft Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan was presented to the public at a public meeting on April 4, 2006. The meeting was advertised in the local papers. Invitations to the meeting were sent those who had been invited to the public meetings held in 2005 and to individuals who attended the 2005 public meetings. County staff presented the draft Plan to the North Beach Town Council on April 13, 2006, and the Chesapeake Beach Town Council on April 20, 2006. Copies of the draft Plan (February 28, 2006) were distributed at the public presentations and sent to adjacent jurisdictions, and the draft was available on the County's website.

Group or Individual Contacted	Summary of Participation	Date	Specific Recommendations or Issued Raised
Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission, municipalities, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Board of Education, public & private schools, County-appointed commissions & committees, civic organizations, neighborhood & homeowner associations, other groups, and the general public	Slideshow presentation on plan's purpose, Comprehensive Plan objectives, description of accomplishments since 1994, future recreation acreage needs, and how projects are funded. Participants discussed their comments. Participants invited to submit comments.	January 11, 2005 in Prince Frederick January 20, 2005 in Dunkirk January 24, 2005 in Solomons	See the Appendix H for a summary of participant's comments.
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	Slideshow presentation on plan. Discussion of ideas and suggestions from the three public meetings.	February 9, 2005	Topics of discussion included indoor pools, trails, land and ball-fields and skate parks.
North Beach Town Council	Slideshow presentation on plan.	April 14, 2005	
Board of County Commissioners, Planning Commission, municipalities, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, Board of Education, public & private schools, County-appointed commissions & committees, civic organizations, neighborhood & homeowner associations, other groups, and the general public	Slideshow presentation of draft plan. Question and answer session with County staff. Request for written comments.	April 4, 2006	Presentation of Draft Plan

Group or Individual Contacted	Summary of Participation	Date	Specific Recommendations or Issued Raised
North Beach Town Council	Slideshow presentation on draft plan.	April 13, 2006	Request that acquisition list be revised: change Callis Memorial Park Addition be changed to “Town Park”.
Chesapeake Beach Town Council	Slideshow presentation on draft plan.	April 20, 2006	Discussed potential location for indoor pool and business model. Mayor later discussed importance of connecting Town Centers of North Beach and Chesapeake Beach by sidewalk, a current State Highway streetscape project.

CHAPTER IV – AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

INTRODUCTION

According to the 2002 Census of Agriculture, land in farms in Calvert County was 30,032 acres, down 15% from the acreage in 1997. Likewise, the number of farms decreased by 16% to 321 farms in 2002. Average farm size changed very little, at 94 acres in 2002.

Approximately 24% of assessed land is farmland. There is more than twice as much undeveloped land as there is land in farms. Due to financial and market conditions in the farming industry some properties have simply ceased operations. Other properties are all forest land and are not operating as tree farms at this time.

Calvert farming is in the middle of a cultural and financial crisis, as it is moving away from its “money crop” to other crops as part of Maryland’s tobacco buyout program. The County is very active in land preservation programs, and Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland’s crop diversification efforts have been providing a modicum of stability. However, the market value of production dropped 50% between Agricultural Census years 1997 and 2002.

A. AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION GOALS

County Goals are reflected in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, Calvert County, Maryland. Two of the six Objectives of the Land Use & Growth Management section directly address agricultural preservation (Page 1).

- As an alternative to functioning primarily as a "bedroom community", adopt policies that will promote the County as a desirable location for high-technology industries, vacation destination, farming and aquaculture region, resource protection area (i.e., "greenbelt"), and retirement community.
- Preserve the rural character of the County, its prime farmland, contiguous forests, historic resources, and environmentally sensitive areas.

The Comprehensive Plan (Page 2) also sets forth a vision of how the region could develop to create a more sustainable community:

A better alternative to the current pattern of development within metropolitan areas is to concentrate on making the cities and existing suburbs good places to live, shop, work, and go to school. When additional land is needed to accommodate population growth, it should be developed according to sound principles of community design within or adjacent to existing urban centers. Areas like Calvert County that lie at the outer edges of metropolitan areas should be maintained as natural resource protection areas, farming regions, and vacation/recreation/retirement areas.

County Acreage Goal

Ever since the first Calvert County Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1966, one of the County’s primary goals has been the preservation of its rural character. In 1978, the Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board set a goal of preserving 20,000 acres. In 1997, Calvert County celebrated the

enrollment of 20,000 acres of prime farm and forestland in County and State land preservation programs. A goal to preserve an additional 20,000 acres was adopted that year. To help meet the new goal, the County allocated an additional \$2,000,000 per year toward land preservation including an additional \$500,000 added to the Purchase and Retirement (PAR) Fund, \$500,000 in local support for the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation program, and \$1,000,000 for a new County leveraging program (an installment purchase program). The County also actively participated in the Maryland Rural Legacy Program.

The County's current goal is to permanently preserve a minimum of 40,000 acres of prime farm and forestland through County, State, and federal land preservation programs. This higher goal of preserving 40,000 acres was established in 1997.

Figure VI-1: State Goals:

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production.
- Protect natural, forestry, and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland.
- To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries.
- Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries.
- Preserve approximately 1,030,000 acres of productive agricultural land by 2020.
- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating State agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs.
- Work with local governments to:
 - Establish preservation area, goals, and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement State goals;
 - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public-at-large, and State and local government officials;
 - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
 - Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas.
 - Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing, and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and the public-at-large.

The County's Goals in Relation to the State's Goals

Calvert goals compliment state goals. The County intends to direct growth away from designated farm and forest areas to designated growth areas. The County recognizes that its role in the metropolitan region should not be to serve as a bedroom community. Rather, it should serve as a greenbelt and a source of farm products and recreation for urban areas. To be effective, the County has to be proactive to offset market pressures.

Current Conditions:

Much of Calvert County was developed in the 1970's, 1980's and 1990's in large lot developments. By 2003, over 33,000 acres of the County were developed residentially, much of

that in rural areas (see Table IV-1). The 1997 Comprehensive Plan called for the County to take a comprehensive look at residential build-out and propose ways to reduce build-out and achieve other planning objectives, including the goal of preserving 40,000 acres of agricultural and forestry land. The Plan also called for strengthening the Transferable Development Right (TDR) program.

To implement the Plan, the County has completed two down zonings and greatly strengthened the TDR program. The County has worked hard to facilitate crop and marketing alternatives.

TABLE IV-1: LAND USE IN CALVERT COUNTY 2003		
LAND USE	ACRES	PERCENTAGE
Farms and Forests, vacant	78,590	60
Parks and Open Space	9,200	7
Institutional and Utilities	3,870	3
Residential	33,570	25.5
Commercial	2,560	2
Industrial	550	.5
Wetlands	2,480	2
Total	130,820	100.0

Note: This table includes assessed properties only. Source Department of Planning and Zoning

B. CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

Calvert's strategy began with designating preservation areas in the Comprehensive Plan. It continued with the adoption of effective land preservation tools to preserve land and land use tools in the Zoning Ordinance in 1999 and then in 2003. It progresses with farming assistance to encourage farming.

1. **Designated Preservation Areas.** The 2004 Comprehensive Plan identifies Priority Protection Areas. These Priority Protection Areas are the Farm Community District (FCD) and Resource Preservation Districts (RPD), which have been renamed the Farm and Forest District, as of May 1, 2006. They are depicted in green on the County's Zoning Map (refer to Figure VI-2: 2006 Zoning Map). The Comprehensive Plan includes the action, "Reserve Farm Community and Resource Preservation Districts (Priority Preservation Areas) for farming and natural resource-related uses and direct residential growth away from these areas." The County's objective to preserve its prime farmland and contiguous forests is implemented through the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance.

Figure IV-2: 2006 Zoning Map



As reflected in Table VI-2, approximately 57,000 acres are Priority Preservation Areas (FCD and RPD). Most of the 23,000 acres preserved are in this area. About 20,000 acres are not preserved and not developed (including APDs that are not permanently preserved). Staff estimates that another 14,000 acres will be preserved in these FCD and RPD areas (now the Farm and Forest District) and another 3,000 to 6,000 will be preserved in the Rural Community District.

Table IV-2: Calvert County Zoning Acreage		
Zoning District	ACRES	PERCENTAGE
Farm and Forest District (FFD) *	57,000	43.58
Rural Community District (RCD)	50,000	38.22
Residential – (R-1) and (R-2)	12,000	9.17
Industrial (I-1)	2,700	2.06
Rural Commercial (RC)	200	0.15
Marine Commercial (MC)	20	0.02
Town Centers (TC)	5,100	3.90
Employment Center/Town Center	800	0.61
Zoned Tidal Wetlands (WL)	3,000	2.29
TOTAL	130,820	100

Note: This table includes zoned land. Land not zoned, such as roads, is not included.

* The Farm and Forest District is comprised of the former Farm Community District (42,000 acres) and the Resource Preservation District (15,000 acres), effective May 1, 2006.

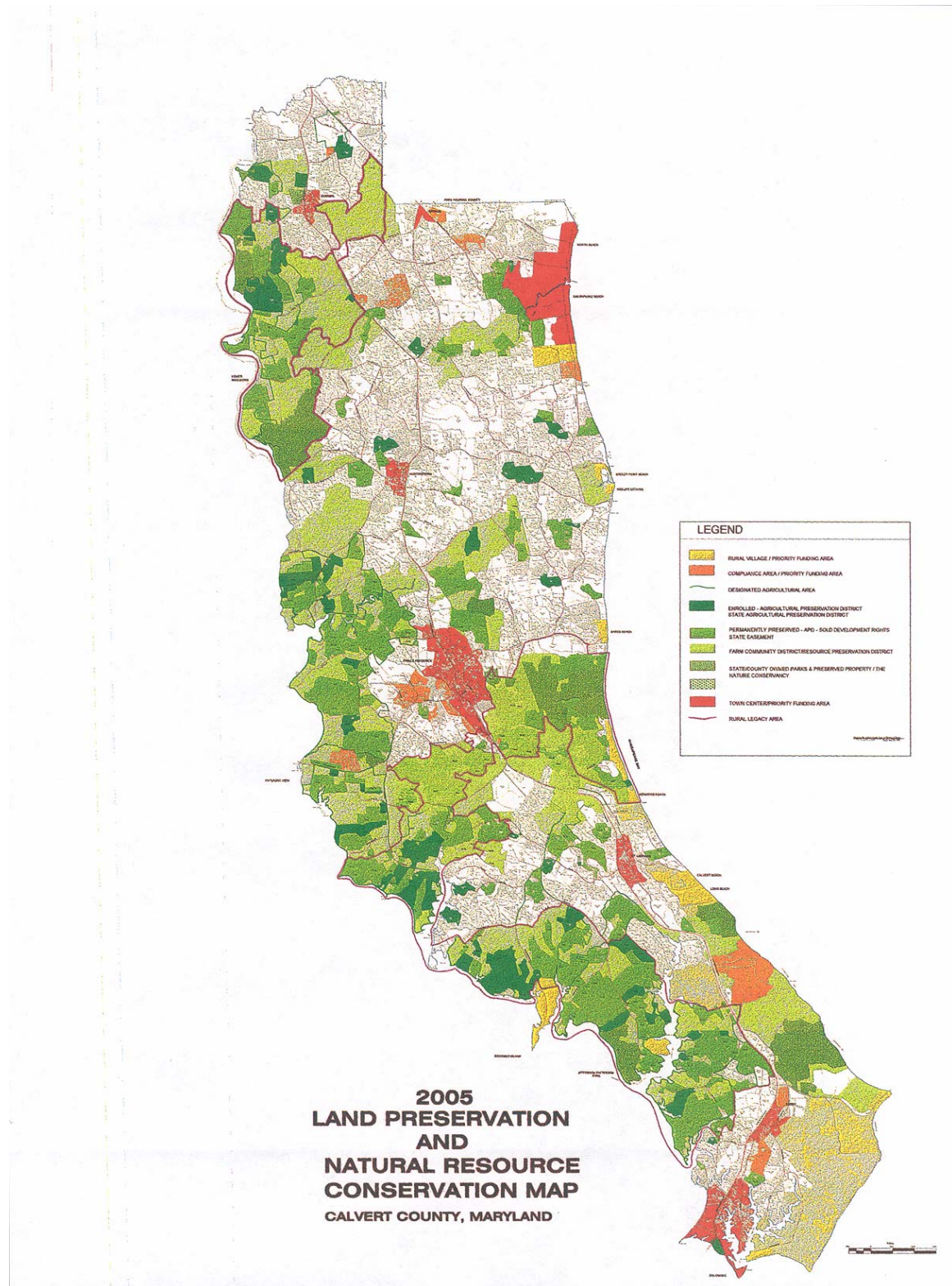
SOURCE: Calvert County Department of Planning and Zoning and Maryland Office of Planning.

2. Easement Acquisition Mechanisms

There are four types of organizations that focus on land preservation in Calvert County: County, State, and Federal governments and the non-profit, local land trusts. Over 23,700 acres has been preserved permanently preserved through the combined efforts of governments and land trusts (as of December 2005). The 2005 Land Preservation and

Natural Resource Conservation Map shows the preserved areas in Calvert County. Refer to Figure IV-3.

Figure IV-3: 2005 Land Preservation and Natural Resource Conservation Map



- a. County – Calvert County adopted the first Transferable Development Rights program in the state in 1978. The County does not “acquire” easements but requires that covenants be recorded prior to the initial sale of development rights. Property owners voluntarily apply for Agricultural Preservation District (APD) designation. The designation remains in effect for a minimum of five years. Owners of parcels of land enrolled in districts from which no development options have been conveyed may withdraw their land after five or more years by giving the Calvert County Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board a one-year notice of such intent. There are three mechanisms for preserving properties in the County program: Transferable Development Rights, Purchase and Retirement, and Leveraging and Retirement.
- (1) Transferable Development Rights (TDRs) Program. This program allows an owner of land in an Agricultural Preservation District to sell his/her development potential to another party. Prior to the transfer, a restrictive covenant is recorded in the land records permanently subjecting the property to development restrictions. Subject to County regulations, a purchaser of the TDRs is allowed to attain a higher residential lot density at another site. Thus development is relocated from farms and forestlands to areas targeted for growth. Prior to a development rights sale, the owner must establish an APD and have development rights certified by the Board of County Commissioners. One development right is certified per acre (2 for the Residential District). Five development rights are deducted per residence and four development rights are added for each unused one-acre “exception” lot in the Rural District. When TDRs are used to increase density, 5 TDRs are needed for each residential lot or dwelling unit. The transfer of development rights is negotiated between buyer and seller. The County monitors the transactions. The County keeps a list of owners wishing to sell their TDRs.
- (2) Purchase and Retirement (PAR) Fund. The purpose of the PAR Fund is to purchase, retire and permanently remove transferable development rights from the development rights market. Under this program, owners may sell development rights to the Board of County Commissioners. Owners may sell up to 10 development rights from land in the County’s Agricultural Preservation Program. Owners of any APD from which no development rights have been sold may apply to sell an additional five development rights. Applications are ranked based upon an adopted formula. The PAR Fund helps promote participating in the Agricultural Preservation Program and helps reduce the residential buildout of the county. By selling development rights over a period of time, owners might reduce their capital gains taxes.
- (3) Leveraging and Retirement Fund. The Leveraging Program is similar to the PAR Fund in that the Board of County Commissioners buys development rights from APD owners and permanently retires the development rights. The primary differences between the two programs include the amount of development rights that may be sold and the method of payment. The owner of the development rights is not limited to selling only 10, or 15, development rights. The owner receives annual tax-free interest payments and a lump sum payment constituting the principal at the end of a 10, 15, or 20 year term. An installment purchase agreement is signed between the County and the seller.

- b. State
 - i. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF). Calvert has participated in the state program since its inception. The County's Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board serves as the state's Advisory Board.
 - ii. Rural Legacy. The Rural Legacy Program, administered by the Department of Natural Resources, seeks to preserve land in targeted areas. Two areas have been designated in Calvert: Calvert Creeks, which encompasses 20,500 acres, and North Calvert, which encompasses 10,500 acres.
 - iii. Maryland Environmental Land Trust.
- c. Federal. Three properties that have been preserved used some of federal Farmland Protection Program (FPP).
- d. Non-profit Local Land Trusts. The County's TDR program helped to spawn three local land trusts. They have used local tools to help preserve land. There are five local land trusts operating in Calvert County: American Chestnut Land Trust, Battle Creek Nature Education Society, Calvert Farmland Trust, Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust, and Southern Calvert Land Trust.

3. Funding for Easement Acquisition. The TDR program has preserved the most land (see Table IV-3). Funding comes from developers who purchase TDRs. The County also purchases and retires TDRs and participates with state programs. Funding comes from several sources.

- a. Agricultural Transfer Tax. Calvert has a certified program and uses state agricultural transfer tax revenues to support local PDR programs (about \$100,000 annually).
- b. Recordation Tax. Calvert increased its recordation tax and allocates \$1.5 million annually from the tax for land preservation.
- c. Local Government Funds. As needed, the County has used up to \$1 million per year in general funds.
- d. Matching Funds from Tri-County Council (averaging \$237,634 annually in the last three fiscal years).

Table IV-3: Land Preservation in Calvert County as of December 31, 2005	
Tool	Acres
Transferable Development Rights	11,901
Purchase and Retirement (PAR)	3,249
Leveraging and Retirement (LAR)	1,776
Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation	4,493
Rural Legacy	1,635
Maryland Environmental Trust	713
Total	23,767

4. Land Use Management Authority – Article 66B gives Calvert County the authority to zone land, maintain a TDR Program, and develop subdivision regulations. The County has used all of these tools to direct growth and preserve land. The Zoning map reflects the Comprehensive Plan Map. Zoning densities are 1 house per 20 acres in designated protection areas. For the Priority Funding Areas to develop, TDRs are needed and so most of the Protection areas will be preserved because TDRs will be transferred from there. Finally, if subdivision does occur in the protection areas, it must be clustered onto 20% of a site, leaving 80% open space, on which the County holds a preservation easement. As of 2004, over 5,000 acres have been permanently preserved through clustering.

5. Farming Assistance Programs. The Board of County Commissioners appoints and provides staff to the Calvert County Agriculture Commission, and funds and supports the Calvert Country Market through the Economic Development Department. The Market's original concept was designed to assist the agricultural community in bringing alternative products to the marketplace. The Department also maintains the Agricultural Commission Web site.

Calvert County participates with the Southern Maryland region in its efforts to assist farming. Christine Bergmark, Executive Director of the Southern Maryland Agriculture Commission, provided the following information.

Marketing Southern Maryland

- ***So. Maryland, So Good (SMSG)*** -- This three-fold campaign seeks to 1) directly link farmers and buyers, 2) add value to local agricultural products through the use of an identifiable brand (logo), and 3) educate consumers about the benefits of buying from and supporting local farms. ***Directories and a website*** assist retail and wholesale buyers to find local products. ***Promotional materials*** help the consumer identify truly Southern Maryland products. ***A creative and assertive campaign actively advertises*** the program, and encourages and educates consumers to shop and dine at businesses that feature local products.
 - ***Direct contact facilitation*** provides direct links between farms and retail and wholesale buyers (stores, restaurants, caterers, universities and brokers).
- ***Southern Maryland Harvest Directory*** –The Directory, first developed in late 2002, is currently being updated for fall of 2005 and lists farms, products, businesses, and services throughout Southern Maryland. This new version will provide the most sophisticated and thorough agricultural resource information booklet we have published to date, with a broader range of product descriptions for produce, meat and poultry, farm services, agritourism, and farm-made gifts. The new guide will also include new participant farm criteria, to distinguish SMSG participants who promote the broader Southern Maryland regional agricultural community and actively feature the SMSG logo. A total of 168 farms were listed by June 2005 (Calvert: 44). Twenty-eight new farms applied to be listed in fiscal '05.

The Directory is widely distributed to tourist centers, farmers' markets, fairs, chambers of commerce, libraries, and other locales, and the nearby metro areas. The Directory also includes an array of services offered by the farms, including Agri-tourism, holiday and special events, and provides a list of restaurants that buy and promote local products, as

well as farm service businesses and agencies. Maps of each county are included, along with descriptions of the farms and markets where products can be found, product availability chart, as well as contact information. Farmers have expressed great appreciation for the Directory. Farmers report increased calls and sales as a result of being listed, and have said it brought them more business directly to their farms than anything else to date (see website and survey below). Over 15,000 copies of the 2004 directory have been distributed in 2004-5.

- ***A Wholesale Directory of SMSG producers*** desiring contacts with interested buyers has been distributed to 50 local businesses. Fifty commercial buyers currently purchase from local producers, including 23 stores, 25 restaurants, 1 broker, and 1 university in the local and DC metro area.
- ***A Holiday Brochure*** was developed that included farms where the public could get holiday turkeys, Christmas trees, and visit for winter activities. Twenty-two farms were featured, and 400 brochures were given out.
- ***The So. Maryland, So Good Website (www. somarylandsogood.com) – A Virtual Farmers Market*** -- was completely reconstructed and launched in 2005. The new website is designed to function interactively and is enhanced with a fully updated automated database, and colorful new graphics. The site now includes a complete on-line version of the Harvest Directory. Expanded information and resource fields feature upcoming events, what's in season, SMSG restaurant and store listings, press releases, grant opportunities, and a special section for kids and teachers. Cumulative website statistics provide a dynamic overview of website use including number of daily hits, most visited pages and preferred areas of interest, coupled with the ability to track the results of SMSG advertisements referred to the website.

Additionally, promotional items, such as seed packets for children and desktop calendars have been developed to keep farms in the minds of consumers on a daily basis.

- ***A creative and assertive campaign actively advertises*** the program and encourages and educates consumers to shop and dine at businesses that feature local products. Specially designed ads drive the public to the SMSG Website for further information and copies of SMSG literature. Over 80 ads were run in area newspapers and magazines, with a combined total circulation of over 800,000, in addition to 10 weeks of radio advertisements reaching an estimated audience of over 175,000. Eighteen press releases, timed to coincide with special events/and or showcase participants and products, were featured in 26 publications. Over 400 requests were received in direct response to the ads.
- ***Our assertive public relations campaign*** has brought SMSG representation to many special events. Three events were specifically organized by the program to showcase the broad array of quality products available and to educate the public about the importance of supporting local farms. One prominent example was the “**Taste of Southern Maryland**” reception at Calvert Marine Museum, which exposed Southern Maryland products to a gathering of over 175 legislators and officials from across the state. A specially designed menu created by a SMSG chef and catering company featured local seafood, grass raised beef, turkey, vegetables and fruits, and wines supplied by 6 SMSG area producers and a bakery.

- ***County Fairs and other festivals*** – SMSG materials have been displayed in unique and interactive ways. In 2004-5, a SMSG exhibited at all five county fairs, the state fair and numerous other public events, including the Patuxent River Appreciation Days. These SMSG booths maintained a striking presence, and stood out with their innovative and inviting layout and informative displays. Interactive surveys for adults, combined with ‘farm trivia’ games for children created opportunities for direct interface with SMSG staff, helping to build awareness of the SMSG farms. Over 5,400 agritourism brochures, 3,000 Harvest Directories, and 5,500 Coloring Books placed in the hands of consumers at the county fairs alone.
- ***A Survey of SMSG participating farms*** was conducted in winter of 2004. Thirty SMSG participants are selling to one or more restaurants, and 40 farms are selling to stores or brokers. Survey analysis indicates SMSG campaign is making a significant marketing contribution with 33% of farms reporting SMSG was directly responsible for increases in products sales in 2004. Fifty percent of farms surveyed attributed increases in their buyer/consumer contacts to the SMSG marketing campaign, quoting the Harvest Directory as the primary resource guide and information source.
- ***A Survey of SMSG Restaurants and Stores*** is currently under analysis. Initial results indicate that stores and restaurants purchased more local products in 2004-5, and are requesting additional farm contacts for local products including wine, seafood, meat and poultry. All have indicated they would like **more** local products!
- ***Farmers Markets*** – Program funds provide promotional advertising for 13 Farmers’ Markets in the five counties. Sales in 2004 from these markets averaged \$1.5 million for over 185 Southern Maryland growers.
 - ***Southern Maryland Regional Farmers Wholesale Market*** – In 2004, this market was still the region’s only wholesale produce and plant auction market for Southern Maryland (Cheltenham), and requested supported from program funds. This wholesale market supports over 200 Southern Maryland farmers and buyers and in 2004 brought in annual sales over \$500,000 to regional farmers.
 - ***Calvert Country Market – An indoor, year-round farmers’ market*** in Calvert County was established with the support of program funds. Much along the lines of our envisioned “Everything Southern Maryland”, this market provides permanent, conditioned space for Southern Maryland farmers and their goods. The market features fresh produce, seafood, local meats, cut flowers, crafts, a bakery, and cake shop. Over twenty vendors serve the market. Funds and in-kind services are matched on a one-to-one basis by Calvert County. The Commission previously provided funds to complete the butcher shop and has continually supported it.

C. EVALUATION OF AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

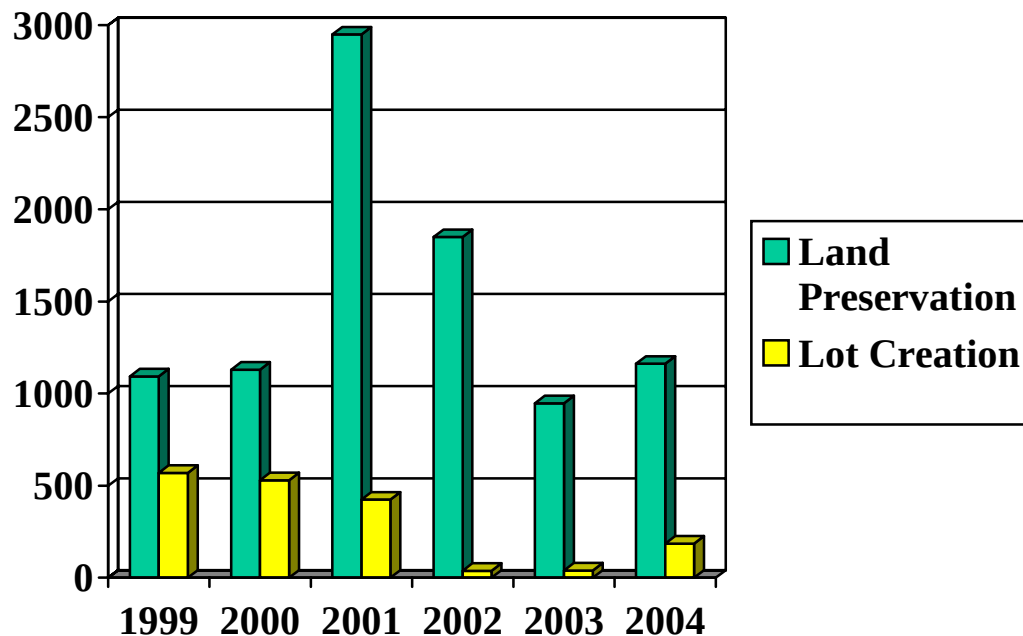
1. **Overview and Summary of Strategy.** Calvert uses incentives and restrictions to direct growth away from protection areas, while providing more agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage-tourism uses and value added product sales in those areas to support farming efforts. Calvert has one of the strongest TDR programs in the country. The sending areas are the protection areas. The receiving areas are Priority Funding Areas and Rural Community Districts. By reducing zoning densities in all zoning categories in 2003 and requiring TDRs

to regain previous densities in receiving areas, the County has created a strong market for TDRs. In the protection areas, landowners can attain the same values protecting their lands as developing their lands.

The County goal of preserving 40,000 acres still seems reasonable, considering that 78,590 acres are undeveloped, and over 23,700 acres are preserved. Another 5,868 acres are enrolled in APDs but have not sold TDRs or easements.

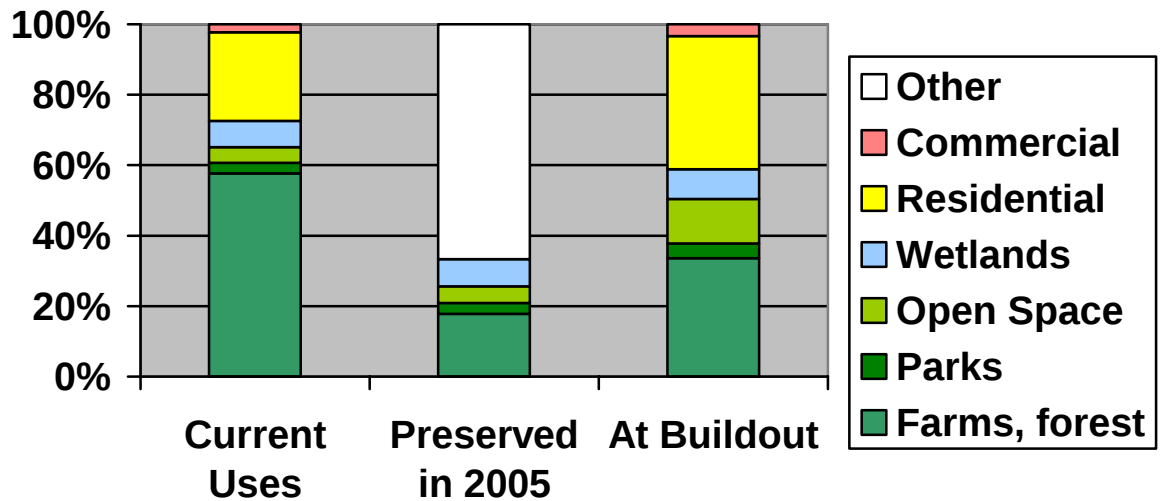
At the current rate of preservation, the County could reach its goal by 2020. In addition, in the last five years, land preservation has outpaced development, as reflected in Figure IV-4. The only question will be how much intrusion by subdivisions will occur.

Figure IV-4 Comparison of Acreage in Land Preservation and Lot Creation



As the County approaches build-out, it is possible that 50% of the County will be in green space (farms, forests, parks and open space), as reflected in Figure IV-5.

Figure IV-5: Land Uses: Present and Future



Preserving farming will remain the more difficult task. New land uses to create “value added” opportunities for farmers have been added to the Zoning Ordinance in the re-write. The new Zoning Ordinance became effective May 1, 2006. The uses include agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage-tourism uses and value added product. County and Tri-County efforts to promote marketing has been impressive and energetic. There has been progress, but new crops and opportunities have not replaced revenues lost from tobacco production.

2. Funding. With the changes made by the Board of County Commissioners to increase the use of TDRs, the Program is preserving about 800 acres per year.

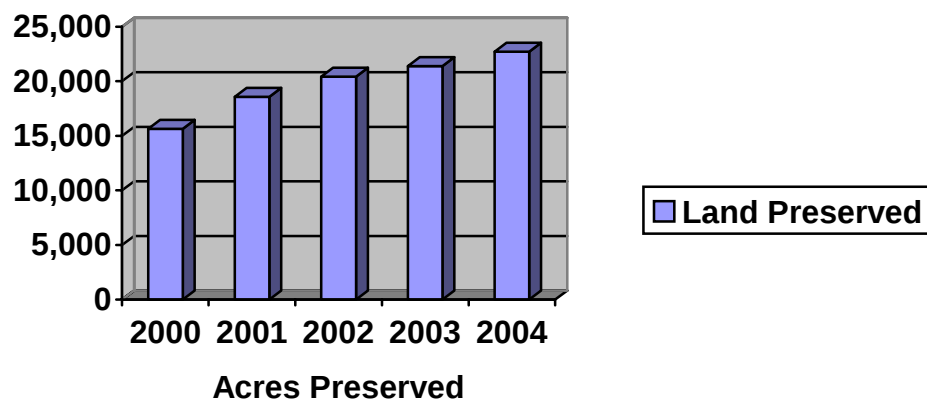
However, state and federal funding has been cut in the last few years, and that has slowed the purchase of development rights programs. Under the County strategy adopted in 2003, half of the land protected would be protected via purchase of development rights rather than by transfer of development rights or clustered open space. If land is not preserved through a county or state program, then subdivisions with 80% open space will occur, which is better than full development, but short of full protection of a farm community. While clustered open space saves some land, it allows residential development, an incompatible use, in the farm communities.

3. Land Use Management Tools. TDRs are an essential component of the County’s zoning strategy. In essence development cannot happen without preservation. Practically all projects (except elderly and affordable housing) require the use of TDRs. Five acres are preserved for each dwelling unit over the minimum density.

Should any development go in the protection areas, then two zoning tools help to reduce the impact of development. First, the base zoning is one house per 20 acres. Second, 80% of the land must be reserved in open space, as per the current clustering regulations.

4. Combined Performance of Preservation Tools. On the whole, the Programs are working very well. Between the years 2000 and 2004, approximately 8,200 acres were preserved. Total acreage preserved from 2000 to 2004 is shown in Figure IV-6.

Figure IV-6: Combined Performance of Preservation Tools



5. Effects of Potential Development on Land Markets. The zoning changes and TDR requirements have made land preservation a viable alternative for owners seeking to maintain equity in their land. In fact, several properties have been auctioned on the open market, and land trusts or conservation buyers were the highest bidders. This has created more stability in the farm communities as owners no longer feel the need to “cash out” their land or lose their “nest egg”.

Very little land has been developed in the Protection Areas, which include the Rural Legacy Areas. More development is going to the town centers.

6. Farming and Farming Assistance Programs. Both the County and Tri-County have been very supportive. However, it takes years to learn the culture of different crops, such as grapes, flowers, asparagus, or berries. Farmers cannot be sure that the new crops will be compatible with the soils. They do not know if there will be a market for their product. Many are watching the first to convert to other crops to see if they are successful.

Many times, it is new farmers from other areas who import new ideas and crops. A few grape producers have moved into the county and are starting small wineries.

7. Summary. Conversion from tobacco has been difficult. The farming culture of the community was oriented around the raising of tobacco, its planting, topping, cutting, and curing. Farmers did not have to market tobacco, they just had to take it to the market to

sell it. Now, farmers are having to learn new crop cultures and figure out ways to market what they grow. Despite the assistance of government programs, the conversion has been slow. They also have the need for infrastructure for ‘value added’ production, including commercial kitchens and a slaughter facility.

Most farmers have a “wait and see” attitude about farming. Most want to continue to live on the land, and they value the lifestyle of living on a farm. Most have had to find part-time or full-time jobs to supplement family incomes, since tobacco production has virtually ended.

The amendments to the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance that allow new land uses were adopted by the County Commissioners became effective on May 1, 2006.

D. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION

- Implement zoning changes to allow farmers to have additional uses for agri-tourism, eco-tourism, and heritage tourism uses.
- Continue to work with the Economic Development Department and the Tri-County Agriculture Commission to develop and implement marketing programs.
- Continue to fund County Purchase of Development Rights and urge the State to do the same.

CHAPTER V – NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the County's natural resource conservation goals as established in the Calvert County Comprehensive Plan, to compare the County's goals with those of the State, to describe how the County is implementing County and State goals, to evaluate the County's current implementation strategy and to identify ways to improve its strategy.

A. GOALS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION

1. State Goals

- Identify, protect, and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
 - Public land acquisition and stewardship;
 - Preservation and stewardship on private lands through easements and assistance; and
 - Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs.
- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas within the statewide green infrastructure.
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas to assist State and local implementation programs. Accomplish this by synthesizing local inventories with DNR's inventory of green infrastructure in each county.
- Assess the combined ability of State and local programs to:
 - Expand and connect forests, farmlands, and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure.
 - Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities, and populations.
 - Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve, and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains, and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions.
 - Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing economic viability of privately owned forestland.
 - Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated State/local strategy to achieve them through State and local implementation programs.
 - Preserve the cultural and economic value of natural resource lands.

- o Encourage private and public economic activities, such as eco-tourism and natural resource-based outdoor recreation, to support long-term conservation objectives.

2. Patuxent River Policy Plan

The Patuxent River Policy Plan was developed by the Patuxent River Commission and adopted by the seven counties along the Patuxent River in 1984. The plan was updated in 1997, and a resolution was signed by the Calvert County Board of Commissioners on August 8, 2000, adopting the update. The Policy Plan goals are listed below.

1984 Patuxent Policy Plan

1. Establishing a Primary Management Area along the river and its tributaries
2. Developing programs for providing Best Management Practices and vegetative buffers immediately adjacent to the river and its tributaries
3. Surveying and identifying major non-point pollution sites
4. Developing state cost-share program to aid local governments in retrofitting existing development
5. Accommodating future development to minimize water quality impacts and maximize existing development opportunities
6. Increasing recreation and open space through public purchase and retention of federal holdings
7. Protecting existing forest cover and reforesting areas important for water quality protection
8. Preserving prime and productive agricultural land
9. Managing sand and gravel extraction to avoid damage to the river
10. Adopting an Annual Action Program to implement the strategies

1997 Patuxent Policy Plan Update

1. Implement a comprehensive watershed management approach to control all sources of pollution and resource degradation
2. Continue to restore, improve, and protect the habitat function of aquatic and terrestrial living resources
3. Concentrate new development in and around existing developed areas and population centers while protecting rural lands and the associated agricultural economy
4. Enhance the environmental quality and community design in new and existing communities
5. Develop a sense of stewardship for the Patuxent River and its watershed through increased public education and participation programs
6. Provide sufficient funding and staff to support continued programs, policies, and projects to meet the 10 recommendations of the Policy Plan

3. County Goals

Calvert County's 2004 Comprehensive Plan Goal is to maintain and/or improve the overall quality of life for all citizens of Calvert County by:

- a. promoting sustainable development
- b. encouraging a stable and enduring economic base,
- c. providing for safety, health, and education, and
- d. preserving the natural, cultural, and historic assets of Calvert County.

The goal is expressed in a series of 10 visions. Four of these visions relate directly to the sustainable protection and use of natural resources. Each vision is followed by one or several benchmarks. The benchmarks provide a means of monitoring progress and thereby help ensure that the visions become reality:

Visions and benchmarks related to the protection of natural resources~

Vision: Our landscape is dominated by forests and fields.

Benchmark: At least 40,000 acres of farm and forestland are preserved. [Approximately 30% of the county's land area.]

Vision: Our wetlands, streams, and forests support thriving plant and animal communities. Our seafood industry is improving.

Benchmark: There is a 40% reduction in nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River.

Benchmark: 90% of existing forest is retained.

Vision: We waste less, consume fewer natural resources, and properly dispose of waste.

Benchmark: At least 22% of household and commercial waste is recycled.

Benchmark: At least 22% of commuters use transit or carpool to work.

Benchmark: The annual increase in average household energy use is under 3%.

Vision: We are building a strong economy based on renewable resources, high technology, retirement, recreation, and tourism.

Benchmark: The commercial real property tax base is expanded from \$459 million in 2002 to \$598 million by 2007.

Benchmark: In-County jobs are increased by 2,700 from 2002 to 2007 (15,607 to 18,307 in-county jobs).

Benchmark: The number of visitors is increased from 471,3321 in 2002 to 573,000 in 2007.

The next step in the continuum from Goals and Visions is Objectives. The Calvert County Comprehensive Plan lists a variety of objectives related to the protection of natural resources.

At the broadest level, the protection of natural resources is part of an overall land use strategy that recognizes that Calvert County, like other counties at the “rural fringe” of metropolitan areas, has the potential to serve as part of a resource protection area, or “greenbelt” for the entire region.

The Comprehensive Plan states that areas “like Calvert County that lie at the outer edges of metropolitan areas should be maintained as natural resource protection areas, farming regions, and vacation/recreation/retirements areas. This approach would help to:

- Conserve natural resources.
- Maintain a healthy environment.
- Promote the health and well-being of residents throughout the region.
- Reduce expenditures for public infrastructure.
- Maintain a regional source of agricultural and forest products.

In order to implement this strategy, the County’s land use plan is to:

- Manage the amount and rate of residential growth.
- Preserve the rural character of the County, its prime farmland, contiguous forests, historic resources, and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Develop town centers as attractive, pleasant, and convenient places to live, work, and shop.
- Direct commercial and industrial uses to appropriate locations and provide necessary infrastructure.
- Direct residential growth to appropriate locations and ensure a wide range of housing opportunities for all incomes and ages.
- Maintain and enhance the quality of residential communities.

At a more detailed level, the Comprehensive Plan devotes a chapter to Natural Resources and Sensitive Areas. The Objectives in this chapter are to:

- Encourage preservation, protection and conservation of natural resources.
- Establish a comprehensive approach to environmental planning with special emphasis on watershed planning.

- Protect environmental features that will help ensure continuance of a healthy and pleasant place to live for current residents and future generations.
- Protect environmentally sensitive areas (wetlands, floodplains, wetland and water way buffers, steep slopes) from development impacts to provide:
 - Sufficient habitat to maintain our current diversity of fauna and flora,
 - Protection of habitat and individuals of rare, threatened, or endangered species,
 - Nutrient removal,
 - Flood control.
- Preserve stream valleys to maintain their important natural functions and to provide greenways throughout the County.
- Practice community planning and site design that conserves energy, protects natural resources, and minimizes impacts on the landscape.
- Encourage restoration of lost and/or damaged natural environmental features.
- Foster greater public awareness, education, and support of environmental concerns.
- Accomplish a 40% reduction from 1985 levels in nutrients entering the Chesapeake Bay and Patuxent River by the year 2008.

The Comprehensive Plan includes a number of “Action statements” related to the creation and maintenance of a network of contiguous green infrastructure.

I –133. Maintain large tracts of forest and especially forest interior in the rural areas.

I –135. Maintain or establish habitat corridors between large tracts of forest and between urban areas and adjoining forested areas.

I –137. Adopt a map of the forest interior in Calvert County to guide the Planning Commission in subdivision and site plan review.

I –148. Establish greenways systems along stream valleys to preserve as much of these low lands as possible.

I-149. Require and maintain sufficient buffers from all perennial and intermittent streams to provide environment protection.

I-150. Reforest stream buffers wherever possible.

I-154. Examine the effectiveness of 50 ft. buffers and alter buffer requirements, if the study so indicates.

I-155. Establish or re-establish forested wetland buffers where possible and feasible.

4. Comparison between State and County Goals

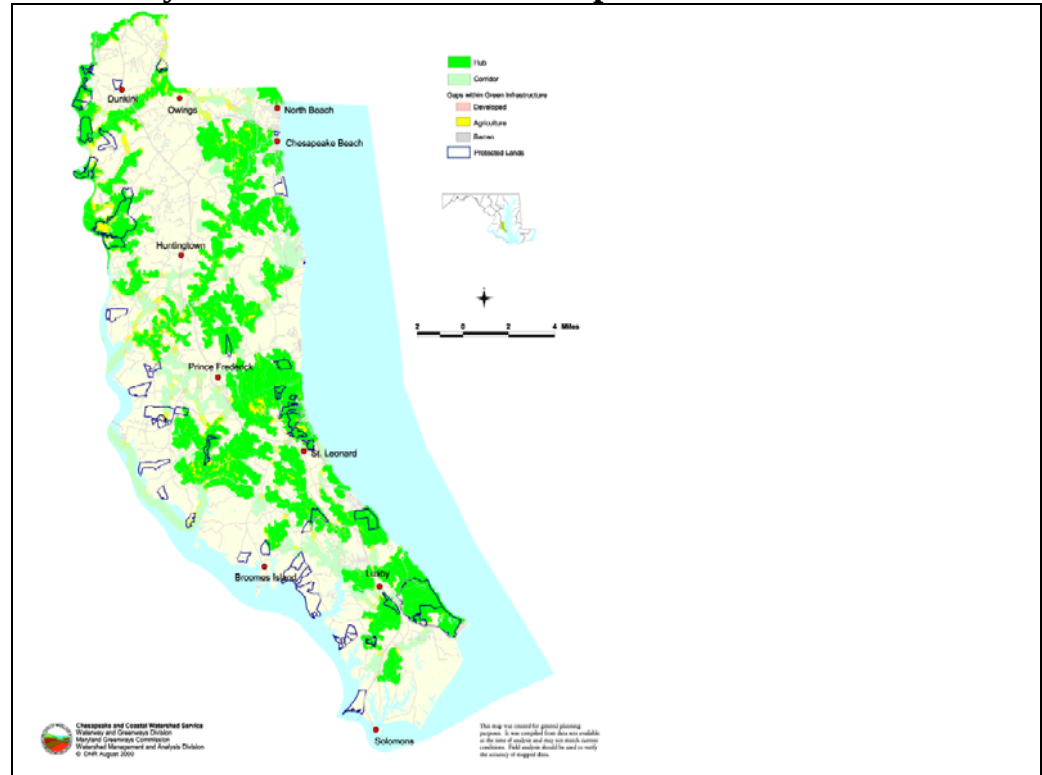
State and County goals are fully compatible. Both reflect recognition of the huge role that natural resources play in maintaining an overall healthy environment. They also reflect recognition of the cultural and economic benefits that natural resources can provide when they are adequately protected and maintained.

State goals identify the need for local land use management plans to address natural resource related issues. The County goals include a land use plan which identifies the protection of natural resources as a primary component of the plan.

State goals identify specific techniques such as public land acquisition and easement purchase that may be used to protect natural resources. These and other techniques that are currently being used by the County are discussed in Section B entitled Current Implementation Program for Natural Resource Land Conservation.

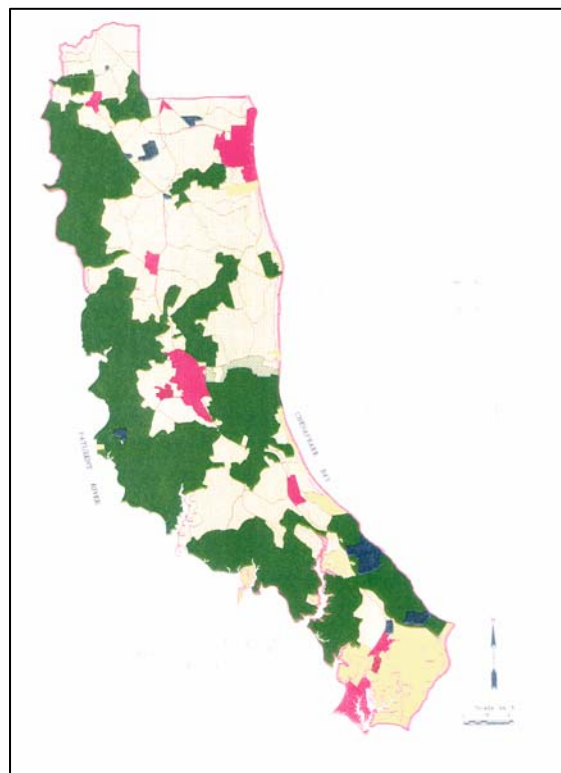
The State focuses conservation and restoration activities on priority areas within the statewide green infrastructure, refer to Figure V-1. Calvert County focuses its conservation activities on areas identified as Farm Community and Resource Preservation Districts. (These two districts were combined on May 1, 2006, and are now named the Farm and Forest District). Figure V-2 shows these Districts in dark green. There is substantial overlap between the State and County maps, particularly in the southern half of the county.

Figure V-1: Calvert County Green Infrastructure Map



Source: Maryland Greenways Commission, 2000

**Figure V-2: Farm Community & Resource Preservation Districts
(Designated as the Farm and Forest District as of May 1, 2006)**



B. CURRENT IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM FOR NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION

1. Comprehensive Planning Context

The County's Comprehensive Plan goals and objectives were outlined in Section A. This section describes the steps that are currently being taken in the County to implement these goals and objectives.

2. Data development and data sharing

The primary sources for environment data in Calvert County are aerial photographs flown most recently in 2003 with 2-ft. and 10-ft. contour overlays and State data inventories and maps. The County has developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) and continues to add data layers that will be beneficial to the conservation of natural resources. The County also has a data sharing agreement with the Maryland Department of Planning.

3. Designated Conservation Areas, Inventories and Maps of Resources

a. County Designated Protection Areas (Conservation Districts) include:

Shoreline and Cliff Areas on the Chesapeake Bay, Patuxent River, and their Tributaries
Floodplain Area
Slopes 25% or Greater
Erodible Soils Adjoining Streams
Wetlands
Development Adjacent to Perennial and Intermittent Streams

District boundaries are delineated during the subdivision, site plan and building permit process. In addition, the boundaries of the Critical Area, Natural Heritage Areas and Habitat Protection Areas are delineated by the State and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners.

Uses permitted in the underlying zoning district are permitted as long as they meet the conditions in the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. These conditions include extended setbacks and buffers, special construction techniques and prohibitions against disturbance.

b. State GreenPrint Program

Maryland has only two million acres of ecologically significant land that has not been consumed by some kind of human development. Of these two million acres of green infrastructure, almost three-quarters are unprotected.

In 2001, the State of Maryland established the GreenPrint program which attempts to preserve the most ecologically valuable natural lands in Maryland by purchasing land from willing sellers. These purchases can be either fee simple (ownership transferred to the state or a county) or conservation easements (original owner keeps the property, but sells the rights to develop it). A protocol was developed to help select and prioritize parcels for GreenPrint acquisition.

The approach to protecting green infrastructure involves four steps:

- Identify, using state-of-the-art computer mapping techniques, the most important natural lands in the state;
- Connect these lands through a system of corridors or linkages;
- Verify the presence and value of these lands on the ground; and
- Save those lands that are currently not protected through targeted acquisitions and easements. (DNR)

Through a computer-based selection process known as the Green Infrastructure Assessment (GIA), two types of important resource lands are identified - "hubs" and "corridors." Hubs are typically large contiguous areas, separated by major roads and/or human land uses, that contain one or more of the following:

- Large blocks of contiguous interior forest (containing at least 250 acres, plus a transition zone of 300 feet)
- Large wetland complexes, with at least 250 acres of unmodified wetlands
- Important animal and plant habitats of at least 100 acres, including rare, threatened, and endangered species locations; unique ecological communities; and migratory bird habitats
- Relatively pristine stream and river segments (which, when considered with adjacent forests and wetlands, are at least 100 acres) that support trout, mussels, and other sensitive aquatic organisms
- Existing protected natural resource lands which contain one or more of the above (for example, state parks and forests, National Wildlife Refuges, locally owned reservoir properties, major stream valley parks, and Nature Conservancy preserves)

Corridors are linear features connecting hubs together to help animals and plant move between hubs. Corridors were identified using many sets of data, including land cover, roads, streams, slope, flood plains, aquatic

resource data, and fish blockages. Generally speaking, corridors connect hubs of similar type (hubs containing forests are connected to one another; while those consisting primarily of wetlands are connected to others containing wetlands). Corridors generally follow the best ecological or "most natural" routes between hubs. Typically these are streams with wide riparian buffers and healthy fish communities. Other good wildlife corridors include ridge lines or forested valleys. Developed areas, major roads, and other unsuitable features were avoided.

The County's list of eligible properties for easement and fee simple acquisition with Legacy Funds are evaluated and ranked by the Rural Legacy staff based upon the GIA criteria.

4. Inventories

a. Water Quality Monitoring Program for Mill Creek, St. John's Creek, Back Creek, The Narrows and Solomons Harbor

This water quality monitoring program tracks important water quality variables to determine changes in key indices between years. Ten stations are monitored during the summer season. At each station, surface and bottom water temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and water clarity are measured. Water samples are collected, filtered and analyzed for chlorophyll-*a* concentrations. Data from 1987, 1988, 1990-2004 are compared to determine any developing trends in water quality and recommendations for further action are made to the Board of County Commissioners. The monitoring is conducted by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science, Chesapeake Biological Laboratory.

b. Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Habitat Study

In 1999, the County prepared a report funded by the Coastal Zone Management Program entitled Impacts of Alternative Land Use Patterns on Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Habitat in Calvert County. The study identified forest cover for the County (See Figure V-3) and estimated Forest Interior Dwelling (FID) bird habitat, generally defined as 100 contiguous acres or more of forest that is more than 100 meters from a forest edge. The study showed that forest covers 81,781 acres, or 58% of land area in Calvert County and that potential FID bird habitat represented 37% of the forest cover or 22% of total land area in the County (see Figure V-4). The study also showed that 44% of the estimated FID habitat is currently protected through preservation efforts (8,410 acres) and regulation (5,113 acres).

A model was developed to determine the impact of land use decisions on potential FID habitat. Three model runs were made. The first (model 1) applied the forest loss randomly, the second (model 2) applied the forest loss in such a way as to minimize FID habitat loss on a per parcel basis and the third (model 3) applied the forest loss with the goal of maintaining maximum forest interior. The results indicated that about 32% of the forest cover and between 54% (Model 3) and 65% (Model 1) of the

FID habitat would be lost by build-out and only 8 to 10% of the County land area would remain FID habitat. It has been over 6 years since the study was done. A new study and map would need to be created using more recent aerial photography forest cover. The map could then be adopted by the Planning Commission for use in reviewing subdivisions and site plans.

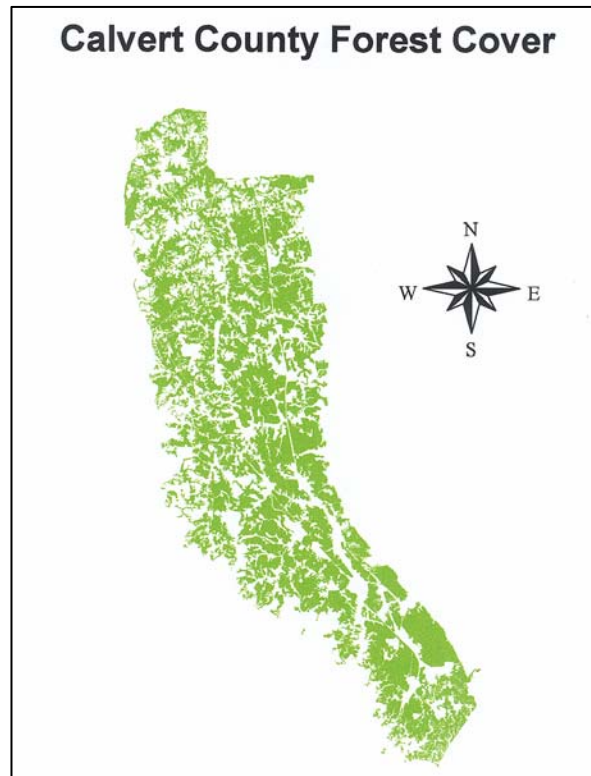


Figure V-3: Calvert County Forest Cover

Source: Calvert County Planning & Zoning Department.
Map based upon 1992 topography maps.

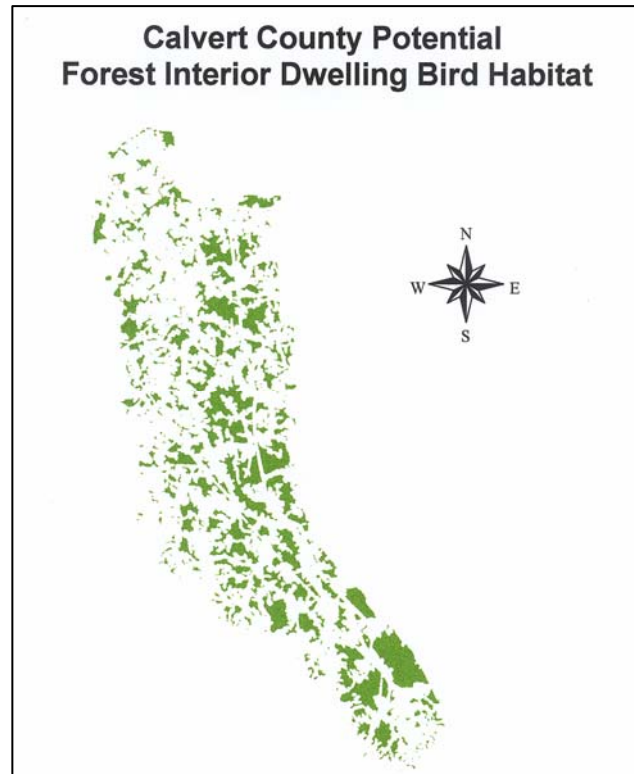


Figure V-4: Potential Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Habitat

Source: Calvert County Planning & Zoning Department.

Map based upon 1992 topography maps.

5. Planning and Land Use Management

The State asks “Does the County have a strategy to map, expand, and better connect forests, farmlands, and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure? If so, what is the status of the effort? Is the strategy an adopted part of the Comprehensive Plan? What implementation tools are being employed?”

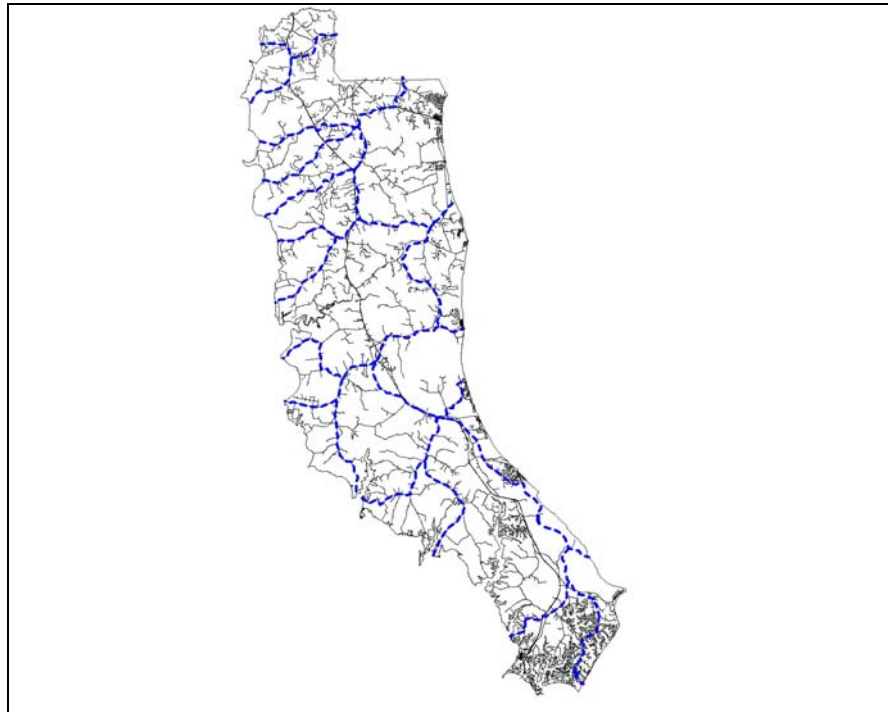
In addition to the Critical Area Program and Forest Conservation Program (both mandated by the State), the County is pursuing several strategies that have the effect of helping to establish and maintain a contiguous green infrastructure.

Watershed Planning

As stated in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan, watershed planning is a comprehensive approach that recognizes that all activities and land uses in a watershed impact environmental quality. Wetlands, creeks, forests, rare, threatened and endangered species habitat together with all man-made structures and activities can be viewed as an interconnected system. (Refer to Figure V-5 for the boundaries of watersheds in Calvert County.) There are two watershed management plans being developed in Calvert County, the Hunting Creek Watershed Management Plan and the Parkers

Creek Watershed Management Plan. A watershed task force has worked on developing each plan in cooperation with local, State, and federal agencies. Citizens participate in the development of watershed plans and thus ensure that the plans address local issues and solutions have citizen input.

Figure V-5: Watersheds in Calvert County



Designated Protection Areas

“Designated Protection Areas” identified in the Zoning Ordinance (and referenced in # 3 above) are intended primarily to protect streams and the habitat corridors adjacent to them. As new development occurs, these areas are mapped as part of the subdivision and site plan process and protected from development and destruction of habitat by the requirement for setbacks, buffers and, in some cases, reforestation.

The 2004 Comprehensive Plan Natural Resources and Sensitive Areas section identifies streams “as conduits to lowlands, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay and states that when they are healthy, they provide habitat for many aquatic organisms, drinking water for wildlife and a means of transport for organic material, which supports aquatic species”.

“However, these same streams provide a direct pathway for pollutants to move downstream into our rivers and Bay. These pollutants, including sediment, nutrients and toxic waste, cause serious damage to aquatic ecosystems and fisheries. Forests and wetland buffers adjacent to streams serve the important function of removing

pollutants before they enter the streams. They also provide excellent habitat and habitat corridors for wildlife.”

Mandatory Clustering

Mandatory Clustering applies to all new major subdivisions located outside of designated growth areas. Depending upon location, 50% to 80% of any given parcel must be preserved. As part of the subdivision process, the preserved area is classified as one or more of the following:

“Farm Reserve” – land that has been cleared for use as cropland, pasture or meadow and which is of adequate size and configuration to continue to function as cropland, pasture or meadow as determined upon recommendation by the Agriculture Preservation Board.

“Woodland Reserve” – that portion of a pre-existing and/or afforested forest that is to remain contiguous and undisturbed by roads, buildings, and lawns and which is of sufficient acreage to allow for timber production or wildlife management as determined by a forester licensed in the State of Maryland.

“Conservation Open Space” – wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, streams and their buffers”.

“Community Recreation Open Space” – recreation open space as required in subdivisions with 50 or more dwelling units.

“Public Access Open Space” – land that is to be deeded to a government agency or non-profit land trust which agrees to provide public access.

Since adoption in 1992, mandatory clustering has preserved more than 5,000 acres of land.

Zoning

Prime resource preservation areas were mapped in 1992 and designated as the **Resource Preservation District**, a 16,000-acre area (approximately 10% of the county’s land area) that contains most of the remaining large contiguous forested areas in the County. This area has a permitted residential density of 1 dwelling unit per 20 acres, although development rights can be purchased to bring density up to a maximum of one dwelling unit per 10 acres. The lower residential density within this district, combined with mandatory clustering onto no more than 20% of any given site, helps reduce the amount of forest fragmentation within this area; however, it does not prevent fragmentation. (Note: The Resource Preservation District, which was previously was an overlay zone, was combined with the Farm Community District, also an overlay zone, to create the new Farm and Forest District, which is a zoning district not an overlay zone. This new zone was established on May 1, 2006

with the adoption of the new Zoning Ordinance. The permitted residential densities did not change with the new Zoning Ordinance.)

In early 2005, the Board of County Commissioners launched a complete revision of the Calvert County Zoning Ordinance. The revision includes an entirely new section called ‘Agri-tourism, Ecotourism and Heritage tourism’. Farm campgrounds, canoe and kayak launching sites, commercial kitchens, and wineries are among the new uses permitted. The County Commissioners adopted the revised ordinance, which became effective May 1, 2006.

Land Preservation Programs

Calvert County’s land preservation programs, described in Chapter IV, preserve both prime farms and forests. The Battle Creek - Parkers Creek Rural Legacy Area, shown in Figure V-6, represents a very successful example of how State and County land preservation programs have worked together to preserve a very significant natural resource area, feeding into two of the County’s major creeks. (Note: the Battle Creek - Parkers Creek Rural Legacy Area was expanded and renamed the Calvert Creeks Rural Legacy Area.) Out of a total 9,500 acres within this Rural Legacy Area, nearly 7,000 acres have been preserved to date through a partnership that includes the State of Maryland, Calvert County government, the Nature Conservancy, three local land trusts (American Chestnut Land Trust, Battle Creek Nature Education Society and Calvert Farmland Trust), and private property owners. This area includes the largest permanently preserved contiguous forest in Calvert County, a 2,500-acre area within the Parkers Creek watershed managed by the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT), refer to Figure V-7. Contributors to the preservation of this area include ACLT, the Nature Conservancy, the State of Maryland and a private conservation buyer. All 2,500 acres managed by ACLT are open to the public for environmental education, scientific research, and recreational hiking, birding, hunting, and canoeing.

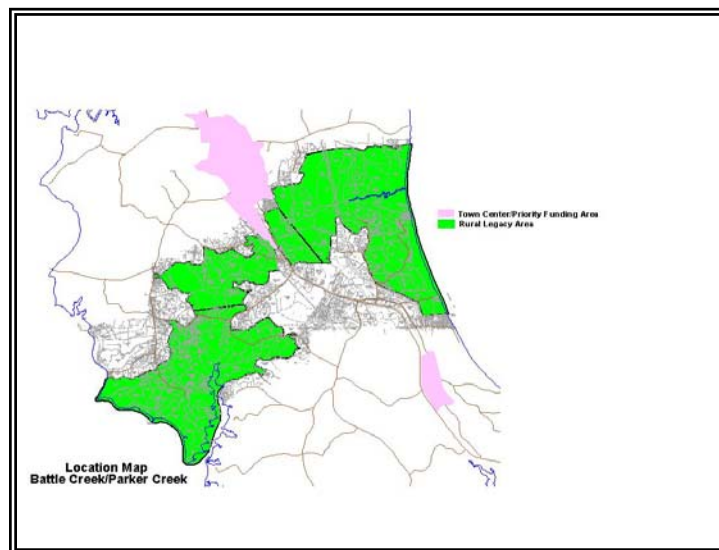


Figure V-6: Battle Creek – Parkers Creek Rural Legacy Area

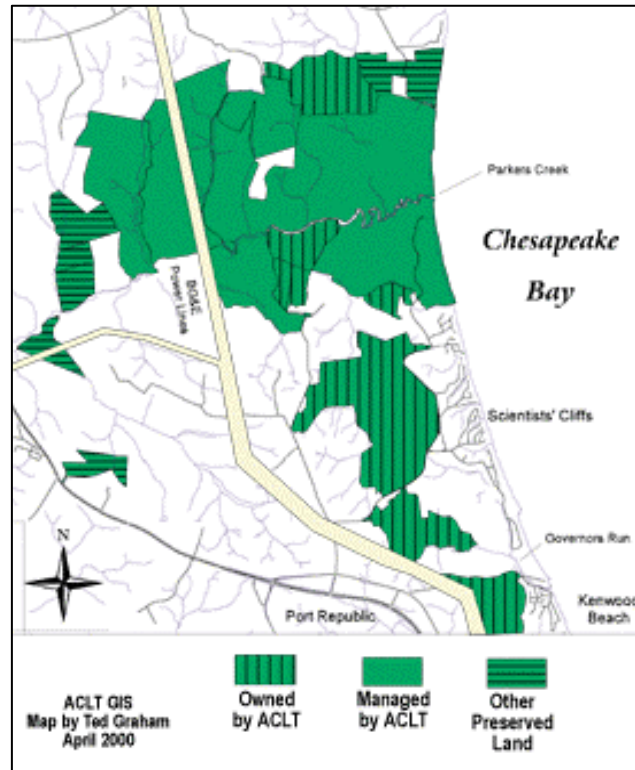


Figure V-7: Preserved Land in Parkers Creek Watershed

Eco-tourism and Resource-Based Recreation

Tourism continues to be one of the leading components of Calvert County's economy. Eco-tourism and resource-based recreation are the basis for the County tourism program. The Economic Development Department maintains a website at www.ecalvert.com. (Refer to Figure V-8.) Battle Creek Cypress Swamp, Flag Ponds Nature Center and Kings Landing Park are all natural-resource based recreation sites owned or managed by the County.

Figure V-8: Eco-tourism Webpage



The graphic is a webpage layout for eco-tourism in Calvert County. It features a central list of 25 free activities, surrounded by four scenic images with text overlays: 'Welcome' (beach piers), 'relax' (people on a bench), 'sail' (sailboats), 'bike' (a person on a bicycle), 'kayak' (a river), and 'stroll' (a beach). The central text reads 'Welcome 25 Free things to do in Calvert County'.

Welcome

25 Free things to do in Calvert County

- Commune with nature while you view Smithsonian sculptures at Annapolis Garden
- Peruse a farmers market and watch local crafts being made at the Calvert Country Market
- Meander the boardwalks at Chesapeake Beach, North Beach, Solomons or Battle Creek Cypress Swamp
- Learn about the Bay at Chesapeake Biological Laboratory
- Picnic on the water's edge
- Trace the history of railroads at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
- Hunt for fossils
- Paddle the Chesapeake Bay and the Patuxent River
- At Battle Creek Cypress Swamp discover why Thoreau said: "Hope and the future for me are ...in the impervious and quaking swamps"
- Visit a One-Room Schoolhouse
- Discover a local band at free open air concerts throughout the County
- Study over 100 species of birds in their natural habitat
- Catch fireflies
- Open your eyes to the beautiful old barns recently named on the National Board of Trust for Historic Preservation list of the 11 most Endangered Places
- Visit the Arthur Storer Planetarium
- Watch sailboats race
- Spend an afternoon fishing or crabbing
- Explore the sites on the newly designated Star-Spangled Banner Trail
- Hike or cross country ski 15 miles of trails at American Chestnut Land Trust
- Get a glimpse of turn-of-the-century life at the Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum
- Trace early history at the Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, an archaeological and environmental preserve
- Wander through antique shops and unique boutiques
- Experience the outdoors of our many recreation areas
- Bike along rolling hills or one of many paved paths
- Check out over 100 free County events at ecalvert.com.

relax

sail

bike

kayak

stroll

Federal, State and local officials, together with business leaders and citizens throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, are working to establish a Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, commemorating the 400th anniversary in 2007 of the founding of Jamestown and Captain John Smith's voyages of exploration in the Chesapeake Bay. Smith and his crew traveled and mapped almost 3,000 miles along the Chesapeake Bay, stopping at several locations in what later became known as Calvert County.

Calvert County's participation in the establishment of this trail would provide an excellent opportunity for the public to learn about Native American history, early English settlement, and the natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay. In addition to providing educational and recreational opportunities, the proposed trail "offers tremendous economic opportunities through heritage tourism, such as: trail outfitting and guide services; motor coach tours; food, lodging and maritime commerce". See www.conservationfund.org for more information.

C. EVALUATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

1. Strengths and Weaknesses of the Natural Resources Implementation Program

a. The Comprehensive Planning Process

Strengths

The Comprehensive Planning process in Calvert County continues to be a major strength. The Plan moves step-by-step from goals to visions to objectives to actions. There are benchmarks by which to measure progress, and the process is open and transparent.

b. Inventories/Maps of Resources

Strengths

The exercise of mapping prime farms and forests, which was undertaken in 1992 and which led to the establishment of the Farm Community, Resource Preservation and Rural Community Districts, has helped direct preservation efforts to those areas that are most critical.

The Maryland Rural Legacy program, which requires the identification and mapping of important resource areas, has worked very well for Calvert County. It required that the County go into more detail than the original 1992 mapping and helped focus resources toward those selected areas.

The County's new aerial photography together with 2-foot and 10-foot contour overlays is proving to be a very valuable tool for identifying sensitive natural areas, particularly floodplains, wetlands and steep slopes. Once the GIS system is

fully operational, the County should be able to be more effective in directing growth away from sensitive areas, as called for in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Forest Interior Dwelling Bird Habitat Study identified potential FID habitat areas and followed up with recommendation on how to minimize the fragmentation of these areas.

Weaknesses

- i. The County has not adopted a green infrastructure map.
- ii. The recommendation to adopt the forest interior map as the official FID map has not been put into action. In addition, the recommendation to use the map to help identify key protection areas has not been implemented.

c. Easement Acquisition and Assistance Programs

Strengths

County and State easement acquisition and assistance programs (MALPF, Rural Legacy, County TDR program, County PAR program, County leveraging program and County Revolving Loan Fund) combined have permanently preserved more than 20,000 acres of prime farm and forestland in Calvert County. They offer property owners a range of choices and have made it possible for land trusts to work very effectively in the County. They give landowners a return on the sale of their conservation easements that, in most cases, equals or exceeds the return for selling the land for development.

Weaknesses

Many critical properties have been developed rather than preserved because property owners may not have known about these programs, or may not have believed that they could offer as good a price as the private sector. Reaching property owners before they make a decision to sell their land remains a problem.

d. Funding for Easement Acquisition and Assistance

Strengths

To help meet the goal of preserving 40,000 acres of prime farm and forest land, the County has allocated \$1.5 to \$2 million per year to land preservation. The County has also received more than \$5,300,000 in Rural Legacy grants.

Weaknesses

Reductions in funding at the State level have reduced the effectiveness of the Rural Legacy Program.

e. Planning and Land Use Management Authority

Strengths

The Planning and Land Use management techniques described in this Plan are among the most effective in the United States when measured in terms of number of acres that have been permanently preserved and percentage of total acreage preserved. Environmental regulations governing setbacks and buffers from steep slopes, wetlands and streams are among the most effective in the State.

Weaknesses

The County's land use regulations have not prevented the development of scattered residential subdivisions throughout much of the countryside, leading to the loss and/or fragmentation of many important natural resource areas.

f. Eco-tourism and Resource-based Recreational Activities

Strengths

The County has a strong tourism program and several very high quality natural resource sites that are open to the public for tourism and recreation. The County recently adopted new zoning regulations that permit eco-tourism uses on privately-owned land.

Weaknesses

Land acquisition for resource-based recreation is becoming more difficult because there are fewer large tracts of land and acquisition costs have greatly increased while State funding sources have decreased.

2. Summary of Needed Improvements in the Implementation Program

There are three basic techniques available to most jurisdictions in the United States in dealing with the protection and preservation of natural resources – regulations, incentives and outright land purchase. Through public discussion and debate over many years, Calvert Countians have struck a balance between these three techniques that appears to be working well. The major problems are related to a) raising public awareness of the need for habitat protection and erosion control and the maintenance of greenway, b) making property owners aware of alternatives to selling their land for development, c) making the most efficient use of limited financial resources by targeting the natural resources that are most in need of protection, and d) maintaining a steady and reliable source of funding for resource protection and preservation.

D. PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION

1. Continue to support and promote the County's land use plan and policies outlined in the 2004 Comprehensive Plan.
2. Adopt a Greenways Map and use it to target areas that need to be protected. Include Forest Interior Dwelling (FID) bird habitat. Use the map to identify greenways during the subdivision process. Give priority to including greenways within designated open space.
3. Increase public awareness of the need for habitat protection and the maintenance of greenways. Techniques should include developing informational brochures, making public presentations and developing programs for Channel 6 (public access cable television).
4. Continue to hold regional meetings to explain land preservation options that are available to property owners.
5. Promote eco-tourism by allowing natural resource related recreational businesses in the Farm and Forest District, consistent with resource and habitat protection.
6. Continue the strong County funding support for land preservation at the local level and encourage the continuation of funding programs at the State level (MALPF, Rural Legacy and Program Open Space).

Appendix A

Inventory of Publicly Owned Waterway Access Sites

Site	Ownership	No. of Boat Ramps	Pier	Beach
Biscoe Gray Reserve	Calvert County	0	No	No
Breezy Point Beach & Campground	Calvert County	0	Yes	Yes
Bay Front Park	Town of Chesapeake Beach	0		Yes
Calvert Cliffs State Park	State of Maryland	0	No	Yes
Fishing Creek Park	Calvert County	0	No	No
Calvert Marine Museum	Calvert County	0	Yes	No
Flag Ponds Nature Park	Calvert County	0	Yes	Yes
Hallowing Point Boat Ramp	State of Maryland	2	Yes	Yes
Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum	State of Maryland	0	No	Yes
Kellam's Park Boat Ramps		6		No
Kings Landing Park	Calvert County	0	Yes	Yes
Lower Marlboro Wharf	Calvert County	0	Yes	No
Nan's Cove	Calvert County	0	Yes	No
North Beach Public Beach	Town of North Beach	0	Yes	Yes
Solomons Comfort Station and Mini-park	Calvert County	0	Yes	No
Solomons Public Boat Ramp	County leases from State	3	Yes	No
Solomons Watermans' Park	County leases from State	0	Yes	No
Warrior's Rest	State of Maryland	0	No	Yes (limited access)
Total		11		

Note: Waterway access includes sites where a person can launch or tie up a boat (motorized, sail, or human powered, like a canoe or kayak), swim, fish, or access a beach. Please contact the owner for allowed uses.

Appendix B
State Land Preservation Parks & Recreation Plan
Definitions, Terms, Programs and Acronyms
Provided by the Maryland Department of Planning, December 2004

GENERAL TERMS

These are provided for general reference and are not legal definitions (except where noted in parentheses).

Acquisition: The act of fee-simple or easement purchase of land.

Agricultural land: Land that is in active agriculture or pasture use within a county's agricultural zoning district. For some state programs, forestland with a forest management plan in place can be considered agricultural land. Land that is assessed for agricultural use and is not developed may also be considered agricultural land.

Agricultural land transfer tax: A tax levied by SDAT when farmland is converted to a non-agricultural use (e.g., sold for development) and no longer qualifies for agricultural use assessment. This tax is not to be confused with the real estate transfer tax (definition below) which is levied on all property transfers.

Agricultural use assessment: The State Department of Assessments and Taxation's (SDAT) assessment on property that is actively devoted to farm or agricultural use.

Allowed use: An activity that is permitted on a property through a deed, zoning regulation, or terms of easement.

Block grant: Money distributed by an organization, which does not need to be paid back, and the use of which is largely at the discretion of the recipient.

Buffer: Land that is set aside through zoning, subdivision regulations, or easement to protect land or water resources from the effects of adjacent development. A buffer can be placed around agricultural land or a water, natural resource, historic, or cultural feature among other things.

Conservation: Planned management of a resource to prevent exploitation, depletion, destruction, or neglect.

Critical farm: An agricultural operation, deemed by the State or county to be crucial to an area's agricultural economy, or resource base, that faces imminent change in ownership.

Cultural resource: A site or location of local, state, or national cultural significance.

Deed: A written legal document by which ownership of property is transferred from one owner to another.

Development: Construction of a residential or commercial structure with associated site improvements on a parcel of land containing the dwelling.

Development right: The ability to construct a residential dwelling based on local zoning and subdivision regulations.

Down-zoning: A process by which a local governing body decreases the development density allowed within a specific area.

Easement: A right which one person has to the land of another for a specific purpose. It can be created by a reservation of rights in the deed conveying the property, by agreement, by grant, by adverse possession, or by necessary implication. Easements can be positive or negative and appurtenant or in gross.

- Positive easement: gives the easement grantee certain specified rights to the grantor's property.
- Negative easement: limits or restricts the grantor's use of the property in order to benefit or protect the grantee or his/her property.
- Purchased easement: the landowner is paid for giving up certain rights in his or her land.
- Donated easement: the landowner gives away certain rights in return for tax benefits¹.

Easement restriction: A restriction of use implemented through an easement agreement.

Facility: For the recreation portion of this Plan, a building, apparatus, or site feature used for a specific recreational purpose.

Fee-simple: Full ownership of, or absolute title to, a piece of property that is free from easement or other ownership claims against the title.

Floodplain: Land that may be periodically flooded. Normally defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Forestland*: A parcel or tract of land on which the predominant vegetation is woodland that can be used for forest-related projects.

Greenway: A protected corridor of open space, generally maintained in its natural state, which is used for a variety of purposes. These include wildlife enhancement, water quality

¹ <http://www.conservemd.org/Conserve-Ease/glossary/index.html> December 2004.

protection, aesthetic relief, recreation, non-vehicular transportation, and environmental education.

Historic resource: A structure, site, or location of local, state, or national historical significance.

Joint-use agreement: An agreement between two entities to share the use of a facility. For the recreation portion of this plan, such an agreement is between a county and its board of education.

Lake: An inland body of water created by a natural or artificial impoundment, which is normally too deep in the middle for the growth of rooted aquatic vegetation.

Land conservation: The purchase of land or easements on land to conserve its agricultural, cultural, historic, or natural resource characteristics.

Land trust: A non-profit organization formed for the express purpose of holding land (or restrictive easements on land) for its conservation, historic preservation, wildlife protection, and/or recreation values, among other things.² According to State law, a land trust is a qualified conservation organization that (1) is a qualified organization under § 170 (h) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations adopted under § 170 (h) (3); and (2) has executed a cooperative agreement with the Maryland Environmental Trust³.

Lease: Written agreement that conveys real estate, equipment, or facilities for a specified term and for a specified rent.⁴

Local governing body: According to the POS Law, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the governing body of any county or Baltimore City.⁵

Local projects: According to the POS Law, acquisition or development of projects sponsored by local governing bodies or their units, and in the case of Baltimore City it also means operation and maintenance of projects as described in POS Law.⁶

Natural Area: Undeveloped land and/or water area where natural processes predominate, and which contributes to the biological diversity of the State.

Natural Resource Area*: An area where natural processes predominate and are not significantly influenced by either deliberate manipulation or accidental interference by

² <http://www.conservemd.org/Conserve-Ease/glossary/index.html> December, 2004.

³ Natural Resources Article, Title 3, Subtitle 2A, §3-2A-01

⁴ <http://www.webster.com> December, 2004.

⁵ Natural Resources Article, Title 5, Subtitle 9, §5-901

⁶ Natural Resources Article, Title 5, Subtitle 9, §5-901

man. Such an area may also have unique scenic, geological, cultural, or ecological value, or a combination of such values. The area may offer limited recreational uses to the extent compatible with the natural values of the site.

Open space: Land that is permanently set aside for general public use as a result of zoning and subdivision regulations or owned by homeowner associations for use of residents in a sub-division from which a portion of the parcel was left undeveloped, that has reasonable public access.

Park*: A wholly publicly owned piece of land used for active or passive recreational use that may or may not be kept in its natural state.

Pond: An inland body of water, smaller than a lake. Typically, it is shallow enough for rooted aquatic vegetation to grow, even in its deepest areas.

Preservation: Protection of specific resources.

Preserved land: Land that has been acquired through fee-simple or easement purchase to protect its agricultural, cultural, historic, or natural resource characteristics

Private conservation organization: A land trust or other non-governmental group that purchases land or easements for land conservation.

Purchase of development rights (PDR): An easement purchase where funds are paid to the landowner to extinguish the right to develop the property and other rights are left intact.

Real estate transfer tax: A tax that is charged by SDAT when property ownership is transferred to another person.

Shoreline: Ocean, bay, river, and stream frontage.

Site: A piece of property.

Steep slope: A slope with a gradient of more than 20 percent.

Subdivision: a) One of the 23 counties of the State or Baltimore City⁷, or the act of dividing land for development. b) When used in the context of local zoning regulation and development, the act of dividing a parcel of land into smaller parcels for development.



⁷ Natural Resources Article, Title 5, Subtitle 9, §5-901

Transfer of development rights (TDR): In general, a program whereby a landowner can sell development rights on his or her land to another landowner. In turn, the purchaser of the development rights can increase the density of development on his or her property.

Up-zoning: A process by which a local governing body increases the development density allowed within a specific area.

Wetland*: An area of poor drainage that for all or most of the time is inundated by standing or slow moving water, such as a swamp, marsh, or bog.

Wildlife Management Area*: An area whose primary objective is to protect, propagate, and manage wildlife populations. It may provide recreational opportunities for sportsmen and other wildlife enthusiasts or may provide an undisturbed refuge for wildlife.

LAND CLASSIFICATION TERMS (as defined for the Maryland Electronic Inventory of Recreation Sites)

Community Park: A site that is larger and broader in purpose than a neighborhood park. It is designed to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods or larger sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces, and natural resources. The site's size is dependent on the activities it accommodates, but is generally between 30 and 50 acres.

Historical/Cultural Area: Land on which the primary recreational activities depend on the presence of one or more cultural, historical, or archaeological sites, structures, or resources which are of a type or quality that is designated as important for protection or preservation.

Large Urban/Regional Park: A park designated to serve the needs of multiple communities. Like the community park, the focus is on recreation as well as preserving unique landscapes, open spaces, and natural resources. The site is usually larger than 50 acres.

Mini-Park: The smallest park classification used to address limited or isolated recreational needs. In residential areas such a site serves as a pocket park and/or tot lot. These sites, which address unique recreational needs, may be located in places such as commercial areas, public transit stops, and scenic overlooks. They are generally between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size, but could be up to 5 acres.

National Battlefield: A battlefield of national significance preserved in part, or in entirety, for the inspiration and benefit of the people.

National Park: A land area essentially of primitive or wilderness character, which contains outstanding scenery and has been designated by the Federal government to be preserved unimpaired for the benefit, enjoyment, and inspiration of the people.

National Parkway: An elongated park that features roads designated for pleasure travel, and that embraces scenic, recreational, or historical features of national significance.

National Recreation Area: An area selected, developed, managed, and conserved to provide broad public recreational opportunities that can best be provided by the Federal government, or where there is Federal responsibility to conserve and develop recreational opportunities.

National Seashore: A coastal area set aside for the preservation and public recreational use of its nationally significant scenic, scientific, historic, or recreational values, or a combination of such values.

National Wildlife Refuge: An area designated for the protection and propagation of fish and wildlife, within which certain outdoor recreational facilities and activities are permitted as long as they do not interfere with the primary purpose of the refuge.

Natural Resource Area: An area where natural processes predominate and are not significantly influenced by either deliberate manipulation or accidental interference by man. Such an area may also have unique scenic, geological, cultural, or ecological value, or a combination of such values. The area may offer limited recreational uses to the extent compatible with the natural values of the site.

Neighborhood Park: The recreational and social focus of a neighborhood. These are parks developed for both active and passive activities, accommodating a wide variety of age groups within the service area. The site is generally between 5 and 10 acres in size, but may be up to 30 acres.

Other Public Land: These sites include public institutions, such as hospitals, prisons, and National Guard and other military installations, that may contain significant acres of open space and natural resource lands.

School Recreation Park: A portion of a local public school, or other local public educational institution, that is available for general public recreation under a POS joint use, or similar, agreement. Depending upon size, these areas often serve the same function as neighborhood or community parks.

Special Use Area: An area oriented towards a single purpose, such as a camp, golf course, marina, etc.

Sports Complex: A consolidation of heavily programmed community-wide athletic fields and associated facilities. Generally, the site is at least 40 acres.

State Fish Management Area: An area with a primary objective of propagating, protecting, managing, and maintaining fish populations.

State Forest: A tract of land whose dominant forms of vegetation are trees, shrubs, and associated plants, which are managed and used to promote the coordinated use of the site's varied natural resources and values. The area may provide opportunities for natural environmental recreation, wildlands experiences, research demonstration areas, and outdoor education.

State Natural Environment Area: An area that is generally 1,000 acres or larger that contains significant natural attractions or unique geological, botanical, or biological features of significance. Site development is generally confined to trails, interpretive facilities, limited parking, water and sanitary facilities, and picnicking facilities.

State Natural Heritage Area: A site that contains one or more threatened or endangered species (plant or wildlife) in need of conservation and has a unique blend of geological, hydrological, climatological, or biological features that are among the best statewide examples of their kind.

State Natural Resource Management Area: An area where multiple-use management practices are employed for the maximum use of the natural resources of the area. Such an area is not committed to specific uses until they have been studied and management plans are developed. A variety of interim uses may be allowed, including recreation, as long as these do not conflict with the protection or management of the area's natural resources.

State Park: An area with natural resources or topographic and physiographic characteristics that is suitable for recreational development and use. Such an area is managed with the primary objective of providing outdoor recreational opportunities for the public in a natural setting.

State Roadside Picnic Area: An area along a roadside developed for picnicking only.

State Wildlife Management Area: An area whose primary objective is to protect, propagate, and manage wildlife populations. It may provide recreational opportunities for sportsmen and other wildlife enthusiasts or may provide an undisturbed refuge for wildlife.

Undeveloped Park: Land reserved for future development as a recreational park or facility.

ACRONYMS AND PROGRAMS

DBM: Maryland Department of Budget and Management

DNR: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

LWCF: Land and Water Conservation Fund

MALPF: Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

MDA: Maryland Department of Agriculture

MDP: Maryland Department of Planning

MEIRS: Maryland Electronic Inventory of Recreation Sites

MET: Maryland Environmental Trust

POS: Program Open Space

RLA: Rural Legacy Area

SDAT: Maryland State Department of Assessments and Taxation

Appendix C Inventory of Acreage

Type of Park						Educational Recreational Area	Total
	Mini-Park	Neighborhood	Community	Regional Park	Special Use		
LOCAL RECREATION ACREAGE							
Annmarie Gardens			29.3				29.3
Appeal Elementary & Patuxent Elementary Rec. Area						4.5	4.5
Beach Elementary School Rec. Area						3	3.0
BGE Field			26.5				26.5
Breezy Point Beach and Campground					16		16.0
Broomes Island Community Center		2.92					2.9
Calvert Elementary & Calvert Country Schools Rec. Areas						8.5	8.5
Calvert High School and Career Center Ballfields						19	19.0
Calvert Library (Duke Street)					1.18		1.2
Calvert Middle School Ballfields						7.5	7.5
Calvert Pines Senior Center					35.76		35.8
Chesapeake Beach Veteran's Park	0.28						0.3
Chesapeake Beach Bayfront/Bayfront Timber Walkway					19		19.0
Chesapeake Beach Waterpark							0.0
Courthouse Green	0.05						0.1
Cove Point Park				91			91.0
Dowell Elementary School Rec. Area						3	3.0
Dowell House Community Center			2.4				2.4
Dunkirk District Park				81.47			81.5
Fairview Community Center/Library			3.2				3.2
Hallowing Point Park				102			102.0
Hunting Creek Annex School Ballfields						0.3	0.3
Huntingtown Elementary School Ballfields					1.6		1.6
Huntingtown High School Ballfields						26	26.0
Hutchins' Fishing Pond		5					5.0
Lower Marlboro Wharf	0.46						0.5
Lynwood T. Kellam Memorial Recreation Park			12.5				12.5
Kellam's Park Boat Ramps			1.35				1.4
King Memorial Park		7.21					7.2
Marley Run Recreation Area			13.83				13.8
Mill Creek Middle School Ballfields						10.5	10.5
Mt. Harmony Elementary School Rec. Area						6.2	6.2
Mt. Hope Community Center					4.4		4.4
Mutual Elementary School Rec. Area						0.7	0.7
Nan's Cove Pier		0.5					0.5
North Beach Callis Park (4th Street)			1.3				1.3
North Beach Community Center			0.05				0.1
North Beach Waterfront Park & Boardwalk					0.8		0.8
Northeast Community Center					2.89		2.9
Northern Middle & High School Ballfields						30	30.0
Patuxent High School Ballfields						19	19.0
Plum Point Elementary & Middle Schools Ballfields						8.2	8.2
Saint Leonard Elementary School Rec. Area						2.5	2.5
Saint Leonard Polling House & Garden of Remembrance Park			1				1.0
Saint Leonard Recreation Area					9		9.0
Solomons Boat Ramp and Fishing Pier					4.5		4.5
Solomons Comfort Station & Mini-park	0.23						0.2
Solomons Town Center Park			20				20.0

Appendix C continued

	Type of Park					Educational Recreational Area	Total
	Mini-Park 2.3	Neighborhood	Community	Regional Park	Special Use 2.721 10		
Solomons Vol. Rescue Squad & Fire Department							2.3
Solomons Waterfront Park							2.7
Southern Community Center							10.0
Southern Middle School Ballfields						9.5	9.5
Sunderland Elementary School Rec. Area						3.5	3.5
Twin Shields Recreation Area		10					10.0
Windy Hill Elementary & Middle Schools Rec. Area						8	8.0
TOTAL	3.3	25.63	111.43	274.47	107.851	189.9	692.6
LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACREAGE							
1/3 of Acreage Can Be Counted Towards Goal							Total
American Chestnut Land Trust							830.0
Battle Creek Nature Center		18.75					18.75
Battle Creek Cypress Swamp-The Nature Conservancy					99.86		99.86
Battle Creek Nature Education Society					155.55		155.55
Bennett Hughes Tree Farm		196.84					196.84
Biscoe Gray Reserve		206.3					206.3
Calvert Marine Museum			5.6				5.6
Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum			1				1.0
Chesapeake Beach Wetlands & Uplands		48.51					48.51
Cove Point Lighthouse			6				6.0
Fishing Creek Park		104.36					104.36
Flag Ponds Nature Park		546					546.0
Fowler Road Open Space		27					27.0
Goldstein Property		152.93					152.93
King's Landing Park		261					261.0
Linden			4.34				4.34
Lore Oyster House			0.265				0.3
North Beach Bayside History & Nature Center (future)			1.8				1.8
North Beach Wetlands & Uplands							0.0
Port Republic School House					0.1		0.1
Subdivision Recreation Areas					923		923.0
TOTAL		1561.89	19.005	2,008.51			3,569.21
1/3 of TOTAL							1,196.4
Local Recreation & 1/3 Local Natural Resource Acreage							1,669.0
STATE AND FEDERAL ACREAGE							
Up to 15 acres per 1,000 persons in excess of 60 acres Can Be Counted (2005 = 5,112 acres)							Total
Calvert Cliffs State Park	1,311.0						1,311.0
Hallowing Point Boat Ramp	1.4						1.4
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum	530.0						530.0
Kings Landing Natural Resource Management Area (not including 261 acres of King's Landing Park acreage)		997.0					997.0
Parkers Creek Heritage Conservation Fund Site (including Warrior's Rest & Goldstein properties)							
Navy Recreation Center Solomons (Federal)					1,612.0		1,612.0
TOTAL	1,842.4	997.0	0.0	295.0	295.0	1,612.0	4,746.4
Qualified State & Federal acreage	1,842.4						1,842.4
Non-Qualifying State & Federal acreage		997.0		295.0		1,612.0	3,454.4
OTHER - Private or Non-Profit or Federal Non-qualifying							1,292.0
East-John Youth Center	24						24.0
Fairgrounds	39.4						39.4
Total	63.4						63.4

MEIRS: Facility Groupings - CALVERT

	<u>Count of Sites</u>	<u>Number of Units</u>
Baseball/Softball	31	60
FIELD, BALL DIAMOND	28	50
FIELD, BALL DIAMOND, LIGHTED	3	10
Basketball	6	8
COURT, BASKETBALL	6	8
Boating	1	1
BOAT SLIP	1	1
Camping	3	107
CAMPSITE, GROUP	2	8
CAMPSITE, RV	1	99
Canoe/Kayak	11	1,294
BOAT RAMP, SMALL	3	11
CANOEING	1	2
FISHING, ESTUARINE	4	1,276
FISHING, POND_LAKE	3	5
Concert/Theater	2	4,040
OUTDOOR THEATER	2	4,040
Cycling	5	19
TRAIL, BIKE	5	19
Education	32	42
ARTS CENTER	1	1
ENVIROMENTALE DUFACILITY	3	3
FACILITY OTHER	12	22
RECREATION CENTER, INDOORS	8	8
VISITOR CENTER	8	8
Equestrian	1	1
TRAIL, EQESTRAIN	1	1
Field Sports	39	67
FIELD, MULTIPURPOSE	17	32
FIELD, MULTIPURPOSE, LIGHTED	7	8
FIELD, OVERLAY	12	17
FIELD, OVERLAY, LIGHTED	3	10
Fishing	13	3,374
FISHING, ESTUARINE	4	1,276
FISHING, PIER	6	2,093
FISHING, POND_LAKE	3	5
Maintenance/Support/Operations	54	147
ACCESS CONTROL	7	10
BATH HOUSE	1	1
CONCESSION	6	6
FACILITY OTHER	12	22
MAINTENANCE BUILDING	9	9
REST ROOM	19	99
Mountain Biking	2	3
TRAIL, OFFROAD VEHICLE	2	3

MEIRS: Facility Groupings - CALVERT

Parking	22	1,722
PARKING	22	1,722
Picnic	18	277
PICNIC PAVILION	9	16
PICNIC TABLE	9	261
Playgrounds	10	11
TOT LOT	10	11
Swimming	7	16,289
BEACH	4	2
SWIMMING POOL, OUTDOOR	3	16,287
Tennis	9	29
COURT, TENNIS	9	29
Trails	16	51
TRAIL, BIKE	5	19
TRAIL, EQUESTRAIN	1	1
TRAIL, HIKING_NATURE	5	27
TRAIL, OFFROAD VEHICLE	2	3
TRAIL, TOTAL	3	2
Volleyball	8	8
RECREATION CENTER, INDOORS	8	8
Walking/Jogging/Fitness	5	27
TRAIL, HIKING_NATURE	5	27

Appendix E
Recreation Supply Report, Demand Report, and Needs Analysis

Supply Report - Calvert County

Activity	Facility Type	Number of facilities 2005	Season Length	Av. Daily Carrying Capacity per Facility	Av. Annual Carrying Capacity per Facility	Total Supply, All Facilities
Baseball/Softball	Diamonds	22	12 wks		5,883	129,440
Field Sports						
Spring	Fields	13	12 wks	92	7,731	100,512
Fall	Fields	25	12 wks	93	7,839	195,984
Basketball	Courts	7	30 wks		9,642	67,500
Tennis	Courts	13	31 wks	20	4,190	54,480
Pools (outdoor)	Pools	2	87 days	1,050	91,350	182,700
Picnic Shelters	Picnic Shelters	6	26 wks	64	11,648	69,888
Playgrounds	Playgrounds	8	30 wks	131	27,543	220,350
Skateparks	Skatepark	1	44 wks	85	26,300	26,300
Equestrian Trails	Trail Miles	0	52 wks	15	5,460	0
Fishing from Pier	Fishing Spots (8 feet per fishable spot)	260	52 wks	1	364	94,640
Kayaking & Canoeing	Public Launch Sites & Ramps	17	32 wks	16	3,584	60,928
Swimming at Beach/River/Lake	Miles of Beach	1.3	18 wks	2,350	296,100	384,930

Demand Report - Calvert County

Activity	2005 Estimated Population	Individual Participation Rate	Frequency of Participation Rate	2005 Demand	2010 Population	2010 Demand	2015 Population	2015 Demand	2020 Population	2020 Demand
Baseball/Softball	85,200	*	*	221,512	91,000	236,589	94,000	244,388	96,000	247,686
Field Sports										
Fall	85,200	*	*	194,343	91,000	207,574	94,000	214,417	96,000	218,978
Spring	85,200	*	*	133,361	91,000	207,574	94,000	214,417	96,000	218,978
Basketball	85,200	10.5%	17.54	156,912	91,000	167,594	94,000	173,119	96,000	176,803
Tennis	85,200	7.0%	8.89	53,019	91,000	56,629	94,000	58,496	96,000	59,740
Pools (outdoor)	85,200	45.7%	11.48	446,989	91,000	477,418	94,000	493,157	96,000	503,650
Picnic Shelters	85,200	38.5%	4.54	148,921	91,000	159,058	94,000	164,302	96,000	167,798
Playgrounds	85,200	38.8%	7.12	235,370	91,000	251,392	94,000	259,392	96,000	265,205
Skateparks	85,200	**	**	150,081	91,000	160,297	94,000	165,582	96,000	169,105
Equestrian Trails	85,200	4.0%	23.67	80,667	91,000	86,159	94,000	88,999	96,000	90,893
Fishing from Pier	85,200	10.7%	6.01	54,790	91,000	58,519	94,000	60,449	96,000	61,735
Kayaking & Canoeing	85,200	7.2%	10.36	63,552	91,000	67,879	94,000	70,116	96,000	71,608
Power Boating & Sailing	85,200	26.9%	19.08	437,291	91,000	467,059	94,000	482,457	96,000	492,722
Swimming at Beach/River/Lake	85,200	45.7%	11.48	446,990	91,000	477,419	94,000	493,158	96,000	503,651

* Individual participation rate and frequency participation rate were used in the calculations above. However, they were not shown due to overlapping use (several sports utilize the same fields/facilities during the same season and during different seasons).

** Individual participation rate and frequency participation rate were a combination of rates for in-line skating and skateboarding.

Needs Analysis - Calvert County

Activity	2005 Supply	Annual Carrying Capacity	2005 Demand	2005 Unmet Demand	2005 Unmet Need	2010 Demand	2010 Unmet Demand	2010 Unmet Need	2015 Demand	2015 Unmet Demand	2015 Unmet Need	2020 Demand	2020 Unmet Demand	2020 Unmet Need
Baseball/Softball	22	129,440	221,512	92,072	16	236,589	107,149	18	244,388	114,948	20	247,686	118,246	20
Field Sports														
Spring	13	100,512	133,361	32,849	4	142,440	41,928	5	147,136	44,624	6	150,266	49,754	6
Fall	25	195,984	194,343	-1,641	0	207,574	11,500	2	214,417	18,433	2	218,978	22,994	3
Basketball	7	67,500	156,912	89,412	9	167,594	100,094	10	173,119	105,619	10	176,803	109,303	11
Tennis	13	54,480	54,408	-72	0	56,629	2,149	1	58,496	4,016	1	59,740	5,260	1
Pools (outdoor)	2	182,700	446,989	264,289	2	477,418	294,718	2	493,157	310,457	2	503,650	320,950	2
Picnic Shelters	6	68,888	148,921	80,033	7	159,058	90,171	8	164,302	95,414	8	167,798	98,910	8
Playgrounds	8	220,350	235,370	15,020	0	251,392	31,042	0	259,392	39,042	0	265,205	44,855	1
Skateparks	1	26,300	150,081	123,781	5	160,297	133,700	5	165,582	139,282	5	169,105	142,805	5
Equestrian Trails	0	5,460	80,667	80,667	14.8	86,159	86,159	15.8	88,999	88,999	16.3	90,893	90,893	16.6
Fishing from Pier	260	94,640	54,790	-39,850	0	58,519	-36,121	0	60,449	-34,191	0	61,735	-32,905	0
Kayaking & Canoeing	17	60,928	63,552	2,624	1	67,879	6,951	2	70,116	9,188	3	71,608	10,680	3
Swimming at Beach/River/Lake	1.3	384,930	446,990	62,060	0.2	477,419	92,489	0.3	493,158	108,228	0.4	503,651	118,721	0.4

Appendix F

Descriptions of Public Recreation & Natural Resource Areas

ANNMARIE GARDEN ON ST. JOHN was donated to Calvert County in 1991 by Mr. and Mrs. Francis Koenig. The 30-acre site on St. John's Creek is being developed as a quiet retreat and celebration of the arts, providing space for sculpture displays, concerts and events. The park promises to be a major regional attraction.

APPEAL ELEMENTARY AND PATUXENT ELEMENTARY RECREATION AREA*

BALTIMORE GAS & ELECTRIC BALL FIELDS are on property leased from the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant.

BREEZY POINT BEACH AND CAMPGROUND includes 2000 feet of Bayfront beach with access to Plum Point Creek. In addition to the wide beach area, the property includes a fishing pier, bathhouse, four cottages, 130 trailer sites, playground and large shaded picnic area. The site serves both residents and tourists.

BROOMES ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER is currently being used as a neighborhood center by residents in the area. Parks & Recreation programs are also provided at this site.

CALVERT ELEMENTARY AND CALVERT COUNTRY SCHOOLS REC AREAS*

CALVERT HIGH SCHOOL AND CAREER CENTER FIELDS*

CALVERT LIBRARY in Prince Frederick operates as a community center by providing meeting rooms for a number of community groups and by sponsoring public programs. A new library building began construction in 2006.

CALVERT MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDS*

CALVERT PINES SENIOR CENTER, located in Prince Frederick, provides meeting rooms, arts and crafts studios, a game room, a 200-seat auditorium, a cafeteria and offices for the County Office on Aging.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH VETERAN'S PARK is a small waterfront site located at the entrance to Chesapeake Beach at the intersection of Route 260 and Route 261.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH WATERFRONT/BOARDWALK includes walking trails, a section of bay front boardwalk and over 1000 feet of sandy beach at the base of the cliffs. The park will eventually be tied into a network of paths and sidewalks, and a continued Bay front boardwalk that will connect every area of the town together, including the Northeast Community Center and the North Beach Waterfront Park. Future "Rails to Trails" routes could tie in as well, making the waterfront recreation areas natural "destination" locations for hikers or bikers countywide.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH WATERPARK is a popular summertime attraction located adjacent to the Northeast Community Center.

COURTHOUSE GREEN is located adjacent to the Courthouse, in Prince Frederick. It is in the first phase in the implementation of a plan that grew out of a Design Competition held in 1991. The Green includes a landscaped garden and a paved seating area funded through the sale of engraved brick pavers. The park was dedicated in 1993.

COVE POINT PARK is one of the County's three district parks. It includes playing fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic pavilions, and comfort station/concessionaires. An outdoor swimming pool has recently been added to Cove Point Park.

DOWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FIELDS*

DOWELL HOUSE COMMUNITY CENTER is a former residence in St. Leonard adjacent to St. Leonard Park. It provides space for a wide range of community activities for residents in and around St. Leonard Town Center.

DUNKIRK DISTRICT PARK is one of the County's three district parks. It includes playing fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic pavilions, and comfort station/concessionaires. A skate park has recently been added to Dunkirk Park.

FAIRVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER located in Chaneyville, provides meeting rooms, a police substation, the Calvert County Tourism Center, a branch library and one ballfield.

HALLOWING POINT PARK is one of the County's three district parks. It includes playing fields, tennis courts, play areas, picnic pavilions, amphitheaters, an exercise trail and comfort station/concessionaires. Master Plans have been completed for all three parks and major expansions are underway. A 20-acre tract immediately adjacent to Hallowing Point Park has been leased and is being developed to provide additional ballfields.

HUNTING CREEK ANNEX SCHOOL BALLFIELDS*

HUNTINGTOWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA*

HUNTINGTOWN HIGH SCHOOL RECREATION AREA*

HUTCHINS' FISHING POND is located near the intersection of Mt. Harmony Road and Route 2 and provides opportunities for fishing, picnicking and ice-skating.

KELLAM FIELD is a 7.5 acres site located in Chesapeake Beach. It contains two play fields, a tot lot and a pavilion.

KELLAM'S PARK BOAT RAMPS are located near Kellam Field, the Chesapeake Beach Waterpark, and the Northeast Community Center.

KING MEMORIAL PARK This property, immediately adjacent to the Courthouse, was acquired by Mr. Boyd King and donated to the County. A Master Plan for the park was adopted in 1996. Upon completion, the park will have walking trails, a pavilion, a playground and a formal garden immediately across from the site of Linden (see below). An early 19th century house (PHILLIPS HOUSE) on the property has been renovated for public use. Part of the former Baltimore & Drum Point Railroad Right-of-way runs through the property and will eventually form part of an in-town trail.

MARLEY RUN RECREATION AREA was developed and donated to the County by Marrick Properties in lieu of paying recreation fees.

MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDS*

MT. HARMONY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA*

MT. HOPE COMMUNITY CENTER is a former school located north of Sunderland. It has rooms suitable for indoor recreation and a small, outdoor playground.

MUTUAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA*

NAN'S COVE PIER is a small "vest pocket" park designed primarily for the use of neighborhood residents.

NORTH BEACH CALLIS PARK (4TH STREET PARK) is a small, centrally located park adjacent to the North Beach Community Center. The park provides a much needed play area for youngsters in a safe and easily accessible location. The North Beach Capital Improvements Program includes a plan for the improvement and expansion of the park.

NORTH BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER contains meeting rooms.

NORTH BEACH WATERFRONT PARK & BOARDWALK This four-acre beach site was acquired in 1986 by the Town of North Beach. The park includes a large waterfront pier and boardwalk and provides an attractive focal point for the Town and surrounding area. Proposed future plans include a 4,000' extension of the existing boardwalk along the water's edge on Bay Avenue, rehabilitation of the existing pier, making it a multi-use, multi-level recreation activity center, a waterfront park and gazebo designed for passive recreation at the foot of Fifth Street, beach replenishment, and a wetlands wildlife observation park to include a fishing pier, boat ramp, boardwalk and observation areas. Long term plans foresee tying this wetland park to the rest of the town's open spaces by means of walkways and trails.

NORTHEAST COMMUNITY CENTER, located in the Town of Chesapeake Beach, is designed to serve the entire Northeast Sector of the County. Numerous recreational programs are scheduled at the center.

NORTHERN MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL RECREATION AREAS*

PATUXENT HIGH SCHOOL RECREATION AREA*

PLUM POINT ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS RECREATION AREAS*

SAINT LEONARD POLLING HOUSE AND GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE. Dating from the early 1800's, the polling house was restored in the early 1980's. A Garden of Remembrance, developed and maintained by area residents, was added in the early 1990's.

SOLOMONS BOAT RAMP AND FISHING PIER is located adjacent to the Thomas Johnson Bridge.

SOLOMONS MINI-PARK is located on Back Creek behind the Solomons Comfort Station. It includes a small seating area and pier.

SOLOMONS VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD AND FIRE DEPARTMENT FIELDS help provide practice space for team sports.

SOLOMONS TOWN CENTER PARK was purchased from the Annmarie Garden Board of Trustees in FY 2004. This 20 acre parcel will provide active recreation for residents in the southern end of the county.

SOLOMONS WATERFRONT PARK Formerly a large parking lot in the heart of Solomons Island, Solomons Park includes landscaped walkways, seating areas with views out toward the Patuxent River, a 16-foot wide Riverwalk, play areas and a pavilion. A central focal point is the

Waterman's Memorial funded by business leaders in the community. The first phase of the park was dedicated in 1993. A parcel adjacent to the Lore Oyster House and directly across from the Solomons Waterfront Park was acquired in 1997. Included in the acquisition was an 18' x 18' building which sits over the water adjacent to the park. An 8' pier extends from the building 105' into the Patuxent River.

SOUTHERN COMMUNITY CENTER near Lusby was completed in 1988. The center provides activity rooms and a branch library. This is a major recreation center for this area. In 1999, a new senior center wing was added to the facility.

SOUTHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELDS*

SAINT LEONARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA*

SAINT LEONARD RECREATION AREA is a 10-acre ballfield site in St. Leonard Town Center donated by Mr. "Pete" Grover to the Optimists, who donated the property to the County.

SUNDERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECREATION AREA*

TWIN SHIELDS RECREATION AREA is one of the first recreational land acquisition sites in the County.

WINDY HILL ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS RECREATION AREA*

*SCHOOL FIELDS. These fields are operated under joint use agreements between the Calvert County Division of Parks and Recreation and the Calvert County Board of Education.

LOCAL NATURAL RESOURCE ACREAGE

AMERICAN CHESTNUT LAND TRUST is a local non-profit organization which was incorporated in 1987 for the purpose of preserving important natural and cultural features and fostering research in land management. Its primary focus is the Parkers Creek and Governor's Run watersheds, although it has partnered with other organizations to preserve land elsewhere in the County. The land trust owns over 850 acres within the watershed and manages an additional 1920 acres owned by the State of Maryland. The site includes 12 miles of hiking and cross-country skiing trails. The property is open to the public for environmental education, scientific research, and recreational hiking, birding, hunting, camping and canoeing.

BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP is owned by the Nature Conservancy and provided the basis for the county's acquisition and development of the adjacent Battle Creek Nature Center

BATTLE CREEK NATURE CENTER focuses on natural ecology utilizing its location adjacent to one of the country's northernmost stands of Bald Cypress as a base from which to explore natural resource-related activities. It includes a strong emphasis on educational programs for young people.

BISCOE GRAY Rural Legacy funds were used to acquire the Biscoe Gray property in 2002. This 206-acre site is part of a 1,500 acre greenbelt along Battle Creek and includes farm fields and barns representing Calvert County's longstanding farming tradition. Recently a tobacco barn that would have otherwise been destroyed was moved to the site and restored. A Dog Park is also on the site.

CALVERT MARINE MUSEUM has gained national recognition for its on-going program of research and education in paleontology, maritime history and estuarine ecology. In addition to its exhibits, the museum offers a variety of educational programs and activities throughout the year, including cruises aboard the historic buyboat, Wm. B. Tennison.

CHESAPEAKE BEACH RAILWAY MUSEUM The Chesapeake Railroad Museum is located in Chesapeake Beach and contains memorabilia from the Chesapeake Beach Amusement Park and old railroad line which operated between Washington and Chesapeake Beach from 1900 to the 1930's.



COVE POINT LIGHTHOUSE, built in 1828 when John Quincy Adams was President of the United States, was owned by the Weems Steamboat Line. It was up to the Cove Point Lighthouse to prevent steamships and other ships from piling up on the shoals off Cove Point. At a later date, the lighthouse was automated and operated with modern navigational electronics. The Calvert Marine Museum operates Cove Point Lighthouse and in addition to its historic significance, is a symbol of guardianship and guidance – an illuminated signal that gives comfort and direction to sailors. The Cove Point Lighthouse and surrounding buildings sit on approximately 2 acres.

FISHING CREEK PARK is located within the Chesapeake Beach Town limits and provides a significant natural resource area which nicely compliments the existing active recreation components that are within walking distance. The property contains part of the old Chesapeake Beach Railroad right-of-way, which connects to the Chesapeake Beach Railroad Museum located on property across Route 261. It is highly suitable for hiking and biking.

FLAG PONDS NATURE PARK offers public access to a magnificent beach on the Chesapeake Bay, an extensive trail system through a variety of natural terrain and wildlife habitats as well as fishing, fossil collecting and public hunting. 187 acres have been added to the park since 1994.

FOWLER ROAD OPEN SPACE is a 27 acre site that was deeded to the County by Edward B. Howlin as part of a subdivision development plan.

LINDEN This 4-acre site is located in the heart of Prince Frederick directly across the street from King Park. Eventually, the two properties will function as an in-town park serving as an important focal point for the entire County. The site is the former home of a respected county family and was maintained as an in-town farm with gardens, barns and many other out buildings. It offers an opportunity to demonstrate a way of life typical of the late 19th and early 20th century. The house serves as the headquarters of Calvert County Historical Society. The exterior of the house was restored, and the interior is being renovated.

LORE OYSTER HOUSE is part of the Solomons Marine Museum. It shows how one of the most important local businesses in Calvert County operated until closing in the early part of the last century.

PORT REPUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSE, located on Broomes Island Road, was renovated in 1977 by the Calvert County Retired Teachers' Association to show a typical one-room school of 100 years ago.

SUBDIVISION RECREATION AREAS Between 1974 and 1994, the County required that new subdivisions provide recreation areas on site. Today, subdivisions larger than 50 units and Townhouse and multifamily developments are still required to provide on-site recreation. In addition, many of the County's older waterfront communities have on-site recreation areas.

STATE AND FEDERAL ACREAGE

CALVERT CLIFFS STATE PARK provides the only public access to the 15 million year old Miocene fossil deposits at Calvert Cliffs. Access is limited and has been further reduced in recent years out of concern for the safety of visitors walking beneath the unstable Cliff face. The park also provides eight miles of walking trails, a fishing pond, picnicking facilities, a playground and public hunting.

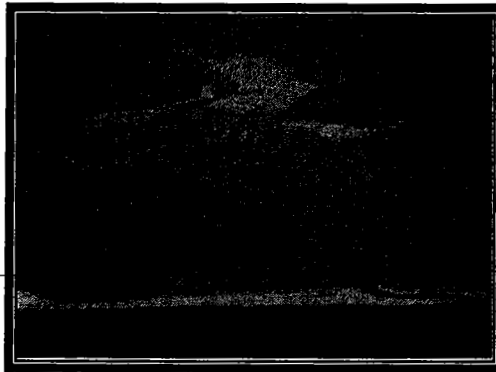
HALLOWING POINT BOAT RAMP is owned and managed by the State and is located immediately adjacent to Hallowing Point Bridge.

JEFFERSON PATTERSON PARK AND MUSEUM was deeded to the State through a generous gift by Mrs. Jefferson Patterson. Activities are directed primarily toward archeological research and education, focusing on pre-European to 19th century settlement, all of which are notably represented at the site. The park is developing a collection of early agricultural implements from Calvert County, many of which are being donated by County residents. A dedication ceremony in 1998 officially added the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory to the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum site. This state-of-the-art archaeological research, conservation, and collections storage facility sets a new standard for states throughout the nation. Also on site is the Morgan State University Estuarine Research Center. Tours for visitors are offered frequently.

KINGS LANDING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA (NRMA) provides nature trails, an equestrian area, an outdoor theater, picnicking facilities, access to the Patuxent River, a swimming pool, the newly renovated Patuxent Hall and overnight accommodations for visiting groups. It serves as the base for a countywide environmental education program (Chespax) focusing on the natural and cultural resources of the area. The remaining acreage is part of a managed hunting area. The property is owned by the State and leased to the County. The County manages the site. The construction of two picnic shelters and the extension of the existing pier support the education program as well as provide more recreation for county residents and visitors alike.

PARKERS CREEK HERITAGE CONSERVATION FUND SITE is owned by the State of Maryland. It is part of a grassroots effort to preserve one of the largest natural areas remaining along the Chesapeake Bay's western shore. A partnership between the American Chestnut Land Trust, the Nature Conservancy, conservation buyers, individual private landowners and the State

of Maryland has succeeded in protecting over 3,000 acres: 1,600 acres of State land together with the 850 acres owned by the American Chestnut Land Trust and additional acreage owned and preserved by individual landowners. The reserve's crown jewel is Parkers Creek- the last unspoiled salt marsh on Maryland's western shore that looks much the same today as it did over 400 years ago when Captain John Smith explored the Chesapeake. Access to Warrior's Rest is



OTHER

EAST JOHN YOUTH CENTER, sponsored by St. John and Eastern United Methodist Church is located on Mill Bridge Road and provides a community center, youth program, basketball court and swimming

FAIRGROUNDS on MD 231 in Prince Frederick is the site of the annual County Fair and other special events.

Appendix G

Groups invited to the public presentations held in January 2005:

Board of County Commissioners
Planning Commission
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Dunkirk Architectural Review Committee
Owings Architectural Review Committee
Huntingtown Architectural Review
Committee
Prince Frederick Architectural Review
Committee
St. Leonard Architectural Review
Committee
Lusby Architectural Review Committee
Solomons Architectural Review Committee
Mayor of North Beach
Mayor of Chesapeake Beach
Board of Education
Public Schools (parent organizations)
Private schools
 Calverton
 Our Lady Star of the Sea
 Jesus the Good Shepherd
College of Southern Maryland
Calvert Crusade for Children
East-John Youth Center
Leagues – ball (25)
Calvert Marine Museum Canoe/Kayak Club
Calvert Co. Dept. of Community Resources
Agricultural Preservation Advisory Board
Agricultural Commission
Economic Development Commission
Historic District Commission
Heritage Committee
Environmental Commission
Tourism Advisory Committee
Chamber of Commerce
Calvert County Library
Calvert Farm Bureau
Calvert Soil Conservation Service
Patuxent River Commission
Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Land Trusts:
 American Chestnut Land Trust
 Battle Creek Nature Education
Society
 Calvert Farmland Trust
 Cove Point Natural Heritage Trust
 Southern Calvert Land Trust
Office on Aging
Senior groups/councils (30)
Community/civic/citizens/home owners
associations (50)
Calvert Alliance Against Substance Abuse
Calvert County Memorial Hospital
Cooperative Extension
Department of Social Services
Health Department
League of Women Voters
Calvert County Historical Society
Commission for Women
Calvert County United Way
Suburban Maryland Building Industry
Assoc.
Solomons Business Association
Calvert Cliffs State Park
Navy Recreation Center
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Maryland Department of Planning
Prince Frederick Rotary
Calvert County Kiwanis
Mid-Chesapeake Bay
Kiwanis
NAACP
Lions
Newspapers:
 Calvert Independent
 Calvert Recorder
 The Voice
 Bay Weekly

Appendix H

Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

Meeting on January 11, 2005 at Calvert Pines

Summary of Group Responses

Natural, Cultural and Historic Sites & Trails

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing natural, cultural, and historic sites?

- Move Calvert Cliffs Visitors Center to an open location
- Maintain historic sites
- Establish bicycle trails
- Repair foghorn at Cove Point Lighthouse
- Establish additional canoe launch sites
- County should have specifications for handicapped access canoe/kayak launch sites
- Create road map of historic sites
- Expand use of new building at Flag Ponds
- Create a canoe launch site on Hunting Creek at MD 2/4 and include a boardwalk along the creek

Community/District Parks, Ballfields and Swimming Pools

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing community/district parks, ballfields and swimming pools?

- Bike trails from town centers/population areas to parks, from North to south, not on major highways
- Need public transportation to parks, pools and recreation sites
- Indoor pool in Prince Frederick—Soon!
- Ballfields/parkland: move beyond catching up, get ahead of current needs by anticipating future needs and acquire property
- Upgrade Hallowing Point Park playground
- Construct indoor pool
- Fulfill the obligations we already have, i.e. maintenance of tennis courts
- Cove Point pool should be an indoor pool not a water park
- Allow use of pool and tennis courts at Chesapeake Hills golf course
- Build a total sports facility: pool, tennis & racquetball courts
- Greater use of school facilities
- Fix up what we have
- Develop Solomons Town Center Park

Town Center Parks & Community Centers

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing Town Center Parks and Community Centers?

- St. Leonard: skateboard park, utilize ground around Dowell House, extend road on south side of Dowell House to provide access to ballfields without going through adjacent subdivision/neighborhood, development of Dowell House basement, village green?
- Need a community center in Prince Frederick
- Use Calvert Middle School as a community center or if land is sold use money to build a community center
- Provide information to the public on existing facilities, i.e. King Memorial Park and the Philips' House
- Build community centers in each Town Center, i.e. Huntingtown
- Southern Community Center is underutilized; do more programs, including daytime activities for seniors
- Establish an information center as you enter the county
- Provide better information and advertising about the County bus schedules
- Bus routes should include stops to County parks and recreation centers (for youth, seniors, and others who do not drive)

Agriculture Preservation and/or Natural Resource Programs

Please add any comments you would like to make on the County's Agricultural Preservation Programs/Resource Protection Programs.

- Allow some (not all) Agricultural Preservation land to be used for active recreation/ballfields
- Provide a playground at Kings Landing Park
- Dominion Gas pipeline: does it respect Agricultural Preservation?
- Concerned about Dominion LNG line's impact on County's environment and abusing rules of County agricultural preservation program
- Plan to keep invasive plants out of the County's parks
- Emphasize County's strong points. Make information available (agricultural preservation) and how to get involved
- Acquire more forestland adjoining Flag Ponds, Parkers Creek, and Cypress Swamp Nature Center
- Encourage corporations to fund handicapped access canoe/kayak launch sites by developing specifications

Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan
Meeting on January 20, 2005 at Dunkirk Volunteer Fire Company
Summary of Group Responses

Natural, Cultural and Historic Site & Trails

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing natural, cultural, and historic sites?

- Trails
 - Bike Trails
 - Flag Ponds hours of operation too restrictive
 - Canoe sites
 - Public boat access in the north Patuxent River
 - Horse trail/biking trail
-

Community/District Parks, Ballfields and Swimming Pools

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing community/district parks, ballfields and swimming pools?

- Owings community building
- Ice Skating facility
- Additional ballfields or practice facilities

Town Center Parks and Community Centers

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing Town Center Parks and Community Centers?

- Need to consider active recreation for seniors
- Trails in parks
- Native plant garden
- Clean Brownie's Beach
- Kellam Field playground clean up and park improvements

Agriculture Preservation and/or Natural Resource Programs

Please add any comments you would like to make on the County's Agricultural Preservation Programs/Resource Protection Programs.

- Accelerate land preservation

Additional Comments

- Overall park maintenance and improvements
- “Take Care of Parks” Program

Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan
Meeting on January 24, 2005 at Southern Community Center
Summary of Group Responses

Natural, Cultural and Historic Sites & Trails

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing natural, cultural, and historic sites?

- Concern from Drum Point/CRE
 - No provision to get across golf course
 - Possible path to Cove Point Park
 - Cove Point Road sidewalk
 - Travel to recreation area
 - No walkways
 - Upgrade existing football/baseball fields across Southern Middle School
 - Needs: lights and bathrooms
 - Music venues/art displays
 - Amphitheaters
 - Amphitheaters – Annmarie Gardens
-

Community/District Parks, Ballfields and Swimming Pools

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing community/district parks, ballfields and swimming pools?

- Neighborhood parks in new developments
- Transportation to facilities
- Parks and Recreation and Boys and Girls Club work together regarding topic above
- 12-16 Year Old
 - Skateboard park – southern part of the County
 - Basketball – outdoor courts
 - Roller hockey/ice rink/billiards (indoor)
- Sports Facilities
 - In-line skating
 - Sidewalks
- MD 497 (Cove Point Road) hazardous road – especially with increased traffic for pool
- Think extreme sports
- All schools should be part-time recreation areas
- All pools should be indoor/outdoor – summer usage
- Start kids younger for basketball if more courts
- Baseball fields in large demand

Town Center Parks & Community Centers

Are there any additional sites/projects you would like to have considered?

Are there any changes or improvements you would like to suggest for the County's existing Town Center Parks and Community Centers?

-Maintain riverwalks/signage

Agriculture Preservation and/or Natural Resource Programs

Please add any comments you would like to make on the County's Agricultural Preservation Programs/Resource Protection Programs.

Keep Chesapeake Hills in land preservation

-Neighborhood parks in new developments

-Bay erosion near lighthouse

-Swamp encroachment Calvert Cliffs effecting water table – poor access

General Comments

-Think multiple use for buildings

-Direct kids away from commercial areas new to Lusby